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Hosts of home-renovation reality TV show Property Brothers.



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Tburu was born from restaurateur Calvin Yeung's dream of an oasis that urbanites could escape to without getting away from the city.



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Discover the effects of lighting in your home! Here's all you need to know about lighting fixtures and where to use them.

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THE ELEGANT 30

There are many ways to imbue your space with style and sophistication. Be inspired by these ideas for transforming your spaces with décor, furnishing, and fixtures.



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WORLD OF VAN GOGH

GOODRICH GLOBAL | WALLCOVERING • FABRIC • CARPET • FLOORING



Your cover story



Wallcovering: Almond Blossom, February 1890

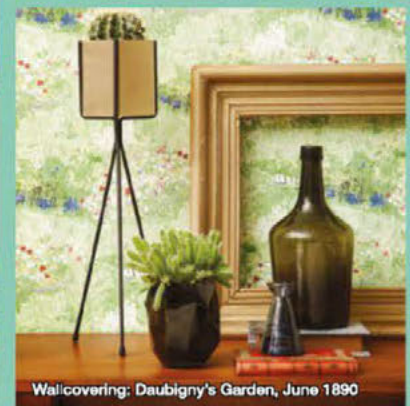


Wallcovering: Irises, May 1890

"I dream
my paintings
then I paint
my dreams."
by
Van Gogh



Wallcovering: Piles of French Novels, Oct 1887



Wallcovering: Daubigny's Garden, June 1890

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HOMES



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A PLACE IN PARIS

Views of the famed city surround this confidently chic home, which is awash with bespoke pieces, plush furnishings and a decided dose of the designer's innate French flair.



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A CURIOUS COMBINATION

Fascinating objects from all over the globe enhance every corner of this beautiful house, fusing its colonial charm with its occupant's engaging personality.



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SIMPLE ROMANCE

A shabby-chic aesthetic leads the mishmash of styles present in this home, which comes across as delightfully charming rather than disconnected.



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BUILT ON TRUST

The difference is in the details. This rustic-industrial home stands out from the crowd thanks to its daring designer.

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OPEN BUT COSY

The unfussy design of this apartment, enhanced with natural materials, allows the sophisticated taste of its homeowners to speak for itself.





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milan issue

The Milan Fair every year is very exciting for us, as we get to witness new product offerings from our favourite brands. This year is full of great trends, which we can't wait to share with you. Turn to our Milan report on page 76 for all the details.

Check out our lighting special, for all things bright and beautiful. We talk about the practical (which light bulb to choose), to the modern, to exquisite chandeliers. If you're thinking of crafting the right ambience for your home through light, this is the issue to read.

Great design transcends time and countries. Our feature "Shop The World" illustrates just that. With influences from Japan, Denmark, Italy and France, we're sure you can find something to suit your style.

Have a great month ahead.

Do let us know what you think of our new look. Drop us a message on our FB page (www.facebook.com/HomeandDecorMY) or e-mail us at homeanddecor@bluinc.com.my.

Check out our blog on

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We will be uploading content on design, homes, products and lifestyle daily. Sign up and you can play around with the thousands of photos we have on the site, clipping the ones you like to your very own mood board.



ELAINE DONG
EDITOR

Elaine



p.114

CHANDELIERS
From classics to modern, there's a chandelier for everyone.



p.76

THE RIGHT FIT
Get the latest on Milan Fair 2015.



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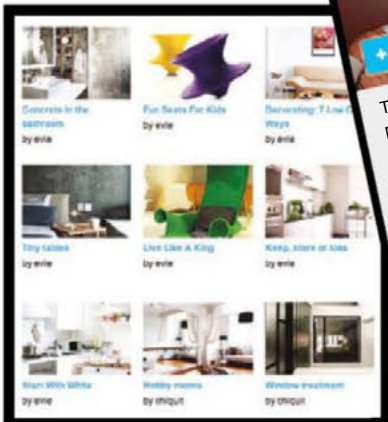
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A New Classic

The growing popularity of copper has extended even to design classics such as Louis Poulsen's PH lamps. The 3½ - 2½ copper table lamp is a new limited-edition version that comes with two interchangeable top shades – an opal glass one for diffused ambient lighting, and a copper one with a white underside (pictured) for downward direct lighting. With copper, we love that each lamp's patina will develop differently.

The PH 3½ - 2½ copper table lamp, is made on order. From now till Aug 31, place your order at Macsk, #01-14, 63 Mohamed Sultan Road, Singapore, tel: +65-6443-2282.





Drop Chair

Why We Love It

With only 200 original pieces in existence, the rarity of the Drop chair adds to its desirability. Designed in 1958, it was designed for the restaurant of the then SAS Royal Hotel, now the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, in Copenhagen. Its teardrop-shape design has a tapered backrest which allows you to slide into the seat without moving the chair much – the perfect detail to complement the peaceful atmosphere that the original restaurant exuded.

Who Designed It

One of the most influential designers of all time, Danish architect Arne Jacobsen created simple, modern pieces that combined functionality with elegance. Besides his much-copied Ant and Series 7 chairs, his other notable masterpiece is the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel. He designed every detail of the building, including its fixtures and furniture. It was for this project that he created much-celebrated designs such as the Swan and Egg chairs.

What It Inspired

Used exclusively in the SAS Royal Hotel, the Drop chair was never manufactured commercially. It was only in 2014 that Danish design firm Fritz Hansen decided to relaunch it. Its manufacturing process has since been updated with new technology, making way for new versions of the seat. It is now available in its original upholstered version, and in plastic with a cushioned seat. It comes in six colours. ●



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RICE

TILES AND OTHER BUILDING MATERIALS

Step into the new Rice showroom, and you might wonder if you've come to the right place. The fashionably dimly-lit interiors of the ground floor give off a cosy and chic vibe more like that of a bar or boutique hotel, than a typical showroom for building materials. "This isn't exactly a showroom, but more of a lab where you can experiment with tiles," says Alan Tan, who co-founded Rice with his brother, Terry, in 2001.

Each floor of the four-storey building serves a different purpose – there is the Trend Lab, Project Lab, Material Lab and Hotel Lab. The Trend Lab showcases the newest products and innovations; currently on display is the Italian brand Ceramica Sant'Agostino's Flexible Architecture series of tiles designed by Philippe Starck. The range offers endless ways of mixing and matching the tiles, thanks to the different thicknesses, surfaces, joints, finishes and colours.

One floor up is the Project Lab that's catered to architects and interior designers, showing large-format



displays of tiles for easier and more accurate visualisation. On the third floor, the Material Lab, with its rows of science lab-like benches, is where you can "work", says Alan. Here, create mini sample boards (with the help of magnets on the back of the tiles in the library) to better match designs for walls and floors.

The Hotel Lab on the highest floor demonstrates the versatility and potential of tiles. As its name suggests, it's done up like a hotel because "Singaporeans enjoy going on staycations and people often wish their homes were as nice as hotels",



TOP LEFT
The ground floor is almost entirely finished with tiles. Named the Trend Lab, it's where the newest products are showcased.

LEFT
This cosy discussion room, that customers can use, features hexagonal tiles in different colours and textures.

TOP
On the third floor, the Material Lab is where you can find out more about specific tiles and view samples.

ABOVE
The furniture pieces, decor and accessories throughout the showroom enhance the tiles on display. The items were selected and styled by Alan.

smiles Alan. Here, bedroom and bathroom sets are beautifully decked out in various tiles and stone finishes.

While the new space was designed by architecture firm Studio Goto, you'll find personalised touches from the brothers, whether it's quotes on the walls that were selected by Terry, or accessories hand-picked by Alan to decorate the various spaces. ●



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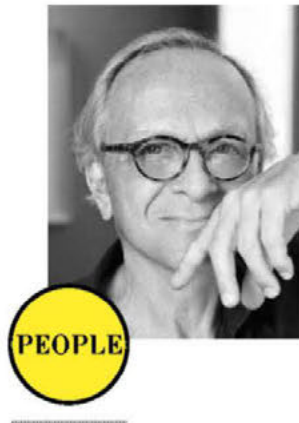
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CHRISTIAN LIAIGRE

A VETERAN IN DESIGN,
CHRISTIAN LIAIGRE
DRAWS MUCH OF HIS
INSPIRATION FROM THE
BEAUTY OF NATURE.

It's difficult to come up with an appropriate description of the design genius that is Christian Liaigre. For those who know of his works, the name itself inspires feelings of awe associated with timeless elegance and the simplicity of design. It's not difficult to imagine that this veteran's designs are inspired by the natural world. After all, he's spent much of his life studying nature, drawing it and drawing from it as a muse. His favourite materials include sea-weathered wood and fine leathers, all testament to years of contemplation and a deep-seated love of nature and true craftsmanship.

Having studied at the Paris Academy of Fine and Decorative Arts, Christian would then go on to teach drawing techniques at the Academy Charpentier. Despite the growing successes of artists the like of Brancusi, Poliakoff and Giacometti, design and decoration did not take off in the country. The end of the sixties saw Christian returning to nature to indulge one of his passions: horse breeding. There, he would remain eight years, experiencing the beauty of the world.

Following his sabbatical from the world of design, Christian returned to Paris with a strong urge to share his experiences through drawing and design. Through the Maison Nobilis, he would eventually design his first furniture line. By the time 1987 had come about, the Christian Liaigre brand had become a reality. The years that pass between then ➤





and now include a wealth of projects: hotel renovations, three books, and showrooms in major cities such as New York, Miami, Vancouver and Shanghai to name a few, with one having opened its doors in Singapore late last year.

The Liaigre name is one that keeps growing. With the exquisite LIAIGRE III already in markets, the brand looks to further expand in 2015 by way of more showrooms, most notably in London and Munich.

Given the sheer excellence of the brand, its story, and the quality and fine design it stands for, it comes as no surprise that the demand for more is high. Christian's personal brand of magic is both classic and contemporary, imbuing all his works with a look that can only be described as intrinsically his.

Christian's style speaks for itself, carefully streamlined and lacking anything overtly ostentatious. He couples attention to detail with knowledge and experience, trusting in the beauty of our surroundings to swath us in security, as well as appealing to our emotions. "Early man 'decorated' his caves, responding not to an urge to impress, but to a psychological need to make the occupied space his own, as an expression of identity. Interior architecture and design are, on occasion, synonymous with timelessness, beauty, harmony, understated luxury; but every interior should be this way." He writes in LIAIGRE III.

In design, Christian believes in serving the client's needs. He seeks to avoid decoration for the sake of decoration, instead aiming to

apply his own rigorous standards to make his clients feel truly at home within their own spaces.

In this same admirable, inspired spirit, he further writes, "I shall not reiterate, once again, my great admiration for Versailles, the epitome of decorative perfection; instead, I will talk about other spaces (apartments, houses, yachts), each with a spirit of their own. Because, like a great painter or writer, the creative decorator must rise above his private tastes and adapt, so that people will say, "My, how good we feel here!" ●



THE CHRISTIAN LIAIGRE SHOWROOM IS LOCATED AT 9 PURVIS STREET, #01-01, SINGAPORE, 188588, T: +65 6333 9388.



{ Early man 'decorated' his caves, responding not to an urge to impress, but to a psychological need to make the occupied space his own, as an expression of identity.





DREW & JONATHAN SCOTT

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HOME-RENOVATION
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Twins Drew and Jonathan Scott, 37, helm HGTV's reality TV show *Property Brothers*, in which they remodel and transform fixer-uppers. On the programme, Drew, a real estate agent, helps the featured couple find a home that meets their budget, while Jonathan, a licensed contractor, lends a hand to create their dream home.

The brothers share some renovation tips for new homeowners.

When buying furniture, where should you start?

Drew: People tend to just grab random pieces they like, so we suggest picking a single piece of furniture for each room and continuing from there. For example, in the living room, start with the sofa. Choose one that works perfectly with the space and build around that.

What is the fastest and simplest way to give a room a makeover?

Drew: Paint your home!

Jonathan: Painting is the simplest way. Any homeowner can do it. Take your time, use good-quality paint and keep the colours fresh and contemporary.

Drew: You could also look at swapping your light fixtures. Changing your lighting can dramatically change your space.

Any tips for young couples renovating their first home together?

Drew: Really plan it out. Jonathan and I are always telling people: if you both jump into it without planning, you will not be newly-weds for very long.

Renovation and home-buying are a headache if you're not organised, so work with professionals who can help you and make sure the job's done right.

What are three questions couples should ask their interior designer or contractor?

Jonathan: One: are you licensed? Two: have you worked on this type of project before? And three...

Drew: "Can I get that in writing?"

Jonathan: Yes, always make sure everything is in writing.

What do couples usually argue about when they start renovation?

Jonathan: It usually comes down to finances. One person wants to spend money on something that the other doesn't, or both can't agree on materials and finishes.

Drew: They also argue about how the spaces will be used. ●

ABOVE
In addition to their TV show, Drew (left) and Jonathan Scott manage real estate holdings. They oversee the sales and construction of residential and commercial projects.

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(for soft material's clothes)



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(for normal clothes)



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(for thick material's clothes)



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TBURU

Tburu (pronounced tay-bu-ru, the Japanese expression for table) was born from restaurateur Calvin Yeung's dream of an oasis that urbanites could escape to without getting away from the city.

As the sole occupant of Orchard Gateway @ Emerald's fifth level, its discreet location sets the tone for a peaceful meal away from the hubbub of the shopping belt.

The restaurant welcomes visitors with a modest entrance, which belies the grand views of Orchard Road that spread out before you the moment you take a step inside.

"Traditionally, sushi bars tend to be very small and cosy. But I like that this place, with high ceilings and big windows, is so different," remarked Calvin, who's from Hong Kong.

While he is better known for his culinary talents, he is also a self-taught interior designer who has a knack for utilising design to create a multisensory experience for his customers.

At the open-concept sushi bar counter, for example, guests can admire the chefs' nimble knifework as they prepare sashimi from whole fish (instead of fillet, which is more commonly offered) on a 2.4m-long cutting board that's made from the bark of a single tree.

Food presentation is one of Calvin's strongest suites, as he designed a menu that includes premium mentaiko sushi served in deep woven baskets, melt-in-your-mouth A4 Japanese Wagyu beef covered in a bell jar to contain the fragrance of rosemary, and exclusive sake served in stemware rather than cups.

As the menu's sushi, sashimi, grilled and seasonal dishes are the true stars of Tburu, Calvin was mindful of keeping the interiors gentle. "I went with a few natural tones, and added some unexpected touches such as the large leather bar stools and a contemporary art piece from my own collection in the private dining room," he revealed.

It all comes together to form a homely space where shoppers can escape to rest their feet and eyes, while Calvin tantalises their taste buds. ●

ABOVE
The interiors of Tburu are kept minimal so as not to steal the attention away from the food.

RIGHT
All the cutlery was hand-picked in Tokyo by Calvin, the restaurant's owner.

BOTTOM LEFT
Sit at the open sushi bar and take your pick of the day's freshest seasonal catch.

BOTTOM RIGHT
There's a dedicated grill room to prepare a fine selection of meat, such as kurobuta belly and Iberico pork jaw.



●
TBURU IS LOCATED AT ORCHARD GATEWAY @ EMERALD, LEVEL 5, SINGAPORE.
TEL: +65-6221-0004.



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Show Your Love to Mama

Recently, on Mother's Day weekend, White Room held a special event at Metrojaya Midvalley and Akemi Uchi Sunway Pyramid. Visitors were given white mugs and porcelain markers, so everyone could celebrate their love for their mothers. The event was the first of the White Lab series of workshops by the White Room, and was hailed a success. Two hundred guests left with beautifully-designed mugs for their mothers in less than two hours. White Room has shown us all that the colour white can be used for almost everything in the home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.WHITEROOM.ASIA/



Bringing colour into your Kitchen

Bring some life into your kitchen by adding a splash of colour with your stand mixer. The Kenwood kMix Stand Mixer combines form and function with a powerful 500W motor that kneads up to 1.35kg of flour in a highly-durable, five litre glass bowl. There are also nine attachments to choose from if you need it to do more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.KENWOODWORLD.COM/EN-MY



For the Little One

We often forget about our children when we decorate the home. We fill our interiors with elegant decorations that suit our tastes, but what about them? They would most probably want to do their own decorating, and with Goodrich's Tout Petit collection of wallpapers, they can! The kids will be spoilt for choice with this collection, with images ranging from colourful circles to horses and even fawns frolicking in the forest. Let your children's imaginations run wild with this collection and watch their creativity unfold!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.GOODRICHGLOBAL.COM/

A Fan Greater Than It's Class

When a fan not only cools your home, but also eliminates various kinds of bacteria and allergens, you know it is a keeper. With the Sharp Plasmacluster PJCP56R Ceiling Fan, your home will never be the same again! The fan promises to deliver efficient airflow with low energy consumption, whilst dispersing Plasmacluster ions that protect your family's health and wellbeing throughout the room.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SHARP.COM.MY

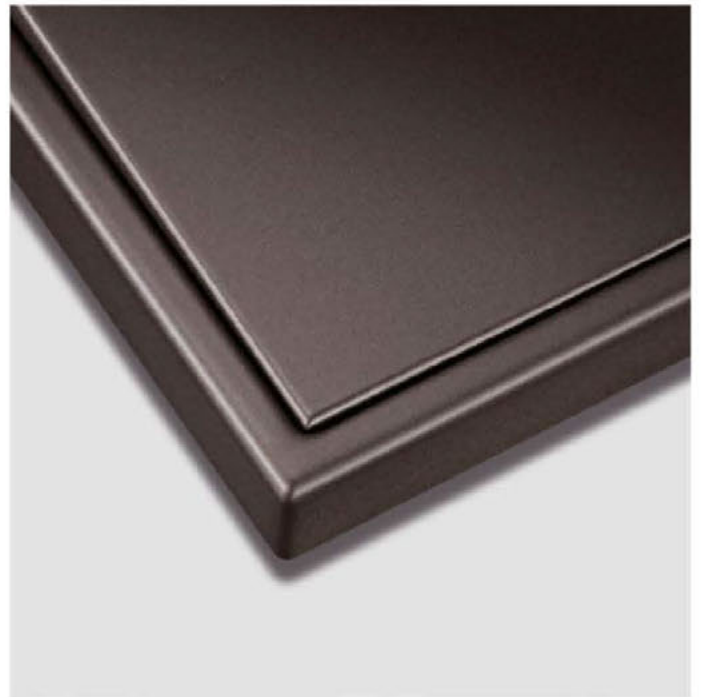


It does it All

The new Electrolux 60cm Built-in Oven is a kitchen appliance that does it all. It comes with six different cooking functions for any kind of dish imaginable, including grilling, baking and defrosting. The interior is coated with clean enamel that makes it easy to ensure that the oven is spotless, while the double-glass door is heat-reflective so you don't burn yourself opening it. This oven also has a powerful fan that will ensure even heating throughout, delivering superior cooking results.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.ELECTROLUX.COM.MY/



The Little Black Switch

We all know that the little black dress is a fashion staple for every woman. It can be dressed up or down to fit any occasion, needing only the imagination. It is same with switches for the home. While you may use a wide variety of colours in your home, adding minimalistic black accents here and there can help to tie the whole look together. What better way to do so than with Jung's LS990 Dark Aluminium series? Jung's switches combine every element of design, safety and convenience, helping you to make a most enlightened statement in your home.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.JUNG.DE/EN/

The fruit of the mountain

Marble is created as a result of the metamorphism of sedimentary carbonate rocks, resulting in the formation of interlinked carbonate crystals. A favourite of sculptors, it is soft, yet resistant to shattering, adding elegance to your space. A Massimo Castagna design, this Maxwell table is of grey marble with white veins, a perfect balance of light and dark. Tapered edges create the illusion of an incredibly thin tabletop, while its legs form a "V" shape to create the contrasting illusion of thickness below. A metal core reinforces its centre, highlighting the marriage between nature and technology.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.SPACEFURNITURE.COM.SG/



Reaching Greater Heights

Nippon Paint Malaysia is now the Coatings Expert! To celebrate this, Nippon has launched a new digital campaign, titled #PaintAllSurfaces in conjunction with the development of various paints that can be used on all surfaces, be it glass, wood or even tiles. "We continuously emphasise the importance of research and development efforts. We are constantly listening to the market, bringing in new innovative products to meet our customers' needs and aspirations. We will not stop and rest." said Mr. Yaw Seng Heng, Group Managing Director of Nippon Paint Malaysia Group.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.NIPPONPAINT.COM.MY



The Food You Love AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



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finish and recessed handles.

SAMSUNG

Quarried Beauty

Niro Granite has released the Nikto collection of tiles that mimic the natural beauty of Fossena stones that are found only in Tunisia. Fossena stones are desired due to a blending of different mineral veins which gives them their infamous colour and shadows. Tiles from the collection come in five colours, ranging from white to charcoal.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.NIROGRANITE.COM



Freshness on Display

With Samsung's new RH57H90507H fridge, you can rest assured your food has never looked nor tasted better. Store your fruit, meat and vegetables in the InnerCase, where they will be kept in optimal conditions to ensure freshness. The shelves in the fridge are not only fully customisable, but they also come with separate vents to ensure even cooling at constant temperatures. This means they'll accommodate any type of food however you choose to organise. The fridge comes with a beautifully sleek stainless steel finish, so you won't have to worry about it clashing with your immaculately-decorated kitchen.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SAMSUNG.COM/MY.

Clean Up a Storm!

CLEANING IS A BREEZE WITH THE NEW TOSHIBA TORNEO VACUUM CLEANER!

Toshiba unveils the brand new Torneo vacuum cleaner in Malaysia. The first of Toshiba's vacuum cleaners to be launched in the nation, the Torneo is not only lightweight, but is also uncompromised in its cleaning ability due to a Dual Tornado System and a Futon Brush.

The Dual Tornado System does away with conventional dust-bags that, over time, become filled with dust that hinders airflow. The Torneo, however, sucks dust into a specially-engineered, reusable dust-cup that is able to sustain a 99.9% smooth airflow even when the dust-cup is full. Additionally, the Futon Brush effectively eliminates dust mites and dust particles on mattresses,

beds and sofas to maintain the highest levels of hygiene for the family.

Unlike most vacuum cleaners, the Torneo is compact and lightweight, weighing around 2.7kg and 2.8kg (the VC-GC32BSA and VC-GC33BSA models respectively). Because it is compact, it can be easily stored in even the smallest of apartments. It also has concealed wheels that offer added mobility so the vacuum cleaner can deftly pass between furniture and narrow corners.

Additionally, the Torneo comes with a unique LED light Interlocking Hand Switch that allows the user to configure the suction power of the vacuum cleaner from the handle. ●

THE TORNEO COMES WITH A ONE YEAR GENERAL WARRANTY. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE TOSHIBA SALES AND SERVICES SDN. BHD. CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE AT 1300 887 899.

{ The Dual Tornado System does away with conventional dust-bags that, over time, become filled with dust that hinders airflow.



THE ART OF TEA

Infuse your intimate
tea session with
a contemporary
design twist.





FROM LEFT
Birdcage, from Song
Birds Centre. Tocco
Lindo multi **tray**, from
Hommage Lifestyle.
Bottle white porcelain
cups, (set of six), from
Lush Lush. Porcelain grey
teapot set (with cup and
saucer), from Kki Home.
Tocco Zaisu beige and
red **chairs**. Tocco circle
kotatsu table. Tocco
Oasi green tea **cup**, all
from Hommage Lifestyle.
Essence of Life chequered
plate. Toshiyuki Kita
Tamba large **sake server**.
Toshiyuki Kita Tamba
sake **cup**. Toshiyuki Kita
iron teapot. Toshiyuki
Kita green tea **cup** with
wooden **saucer**, all from
Atomi. V-Bamboo **cup**,
from Cityflow.
Fulico large swing
cup, from Atomi. White
porcelain **pitcher**, not
for sale.

Other items, stylist's own.

BACKGROUND
Carlo Marmo Flavio
DXP 1333K, from Lamitak.

Modern Contrasts

Pair earth-toned tea accessories with urban metallic accessories and concrete-look backdrops for visual and textural contrast.



FROM TOP

Toshiyuki Kita Tamba small **sake server**, and Fog linen natural-colour **tablecloth**, both from Atomi. Wonderful Design Studio red-clay **gongfu tea set**, [with teapot, a pair of teacups, a round wooden tray and six small white porcelain saucers], from Cityflow. Brown porcelain Chinese **teacups**, [part of a tea set with teapot and pitcher], from Lush Lush. Wooden **spoon**, from Kki Home.

BACKGROUND & TABLE

[as before]



FROM LEFT
Bamboo **candlestick**,
standing wooden bottle-
shaped **ornament**,
Three Walkers walnut
table, and brown
porcelain **pitcher** and
tea cup, (part of a
tea set with teapot),
all from Lush Lush.
Hirota glass **tumbler**,
and Suzugami large
tin **plate** (rolled into a
vase), both from Atomi.

BACKGROUND
Dario Ramblas DXP
1329C, from Lamitak.

Get Zen

Clean lines and a pared-down colour scheme can easily help one achieve a sense of calm and balance.

FROM TOP
Wooden **tray**, (part of gongfu tea set), from Cityflow.
Remember white porcelain **vase**, from Lush Lush.
Nakagawa black wooden **bowl**, Graf natural beech wood **chopsticks**, Yumiko Iihoshi Oxymoron small **plate**, and Yumiko Iihoshi Unjour Gouter grey **plate**, all from Atomi.

TABLETOP
Jiro Shizuoka Oak WY 4253X, from Lamitak. ●

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DESIGNED IN
JAPAN

Toshiba's New Torneo Vacuum Cleaner Makes Light Work Of Dirt And Dust.

Keep your home free from dirt and dust mites with Toshiba's new Torneo vacuum cleaner, supercharged by a **Dual Tornado System**. At just 2.8kg* light and with a super compact, modern design, this powerful and effective home helper will make vacuuming a breeze while ensuring your home stays pristine, immaculately clean and dust-free.

Available models:



VC-GC33BSA (R)
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VC-GC33BSA (N)
Pink Gold



VC-GC32BSA (L)
Light Blue



VC-GC32BSA (P)
Silky Pink

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*Actual weight may differ slightly for VC-GC33BSA models.
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Singapore Design Week was back for its second edition in March. Whether it was at Singaplural, Maison & Objet Asia or the International Furniture Fair/Asian Furniture Show (IFFS/AFS), every day of our week was inspiring, thanks to the numerous exhibitions and installations around the island. Here are the highlights and our favourite sights.

A CELEBRATION OF DESIGN



YOUR HOOD

Eight unique installations and designs inspired by Singapore's urban landscape were created by design collective Little Thoughts Group with Samko's eco-friendly engineered wood. These include Lee Chang Tat's abstract forest that represents Tampines' greener past, and Chan Wai Lim's rocking furniture modelled after animals found in the kampung she grew up in.

www.littlethoughts.org





Most Awe-inspiring

BOTANIC LAMINATES

"Most people see laminates in huge panels; I wanted to encourage people to take a closer look at their textures and colours," says Singapore-based artist Noreen Loh (better known as Miun). Titled The Marriage, her interpretation of Lamitak's pressured laminates as part of Singaplural's Project X exhibition resulted in a whimsical collection of sculptures made out of deconstructed plants and flowers, merged with laminate "petals".

www.miun.sg

SERIP

The Portuguese manufacturer, which specialises in custom pieces, wowed with its intricate nature-inspired chandeliers and other decorative lights. The pieces on display comprised of elements such as hand-forged metal branches and mouth-blown glass blossoms. Even when not lit up, they were still luxurious works of art!

www.serip.com.pt

NOSIGNER EXHIBITION

Japanese design firm Nosigner returns to IFFS with an exhibition that positions itself as a game changer in the region's design scene. With a mission to use design to solve global social issues such as natural disasters, founder Eisuke Tachikawa has been championing innovations such as open-source furniture, which anyone can build anywhere in the world at a low cost.

www.nosigner.com





photo NANYANG POLYTECHNIC

Most On-trend

MAKE YOUR OWN COPPER FURNITURE

After conducting workshops to help amateurs create their own copper lamps, Make Your Own founder Poh Wenxiang went a step further and created an entire furniture collection with copper pipes. These include an industrial yet clean-cut clothes rail, a study desk and a bench. "I also integrated plants into some of the designs to liven up the raw materials that I've used," he explains.

www.makeyourown.sg

Most Innovative

POWER PLUG FOR THE ELDERLY

At Nanyang Polytechnic's School of Design graduation show, Industrial Design student Tommy Cheong's nifty extension plug caught our eye. For his final year project, Tommy designed Power, which allows the elderly to switch a plug on and off easily by stepping on it, instead of needing to bend over and use their hands. Its large surface area that's backlit with an LED light also makes it easier to identify if the power is on.

<http://unit.nyp.edu.sg>



photo MAMBO UNLIMITED IDEAS

MAMBO UNLIMITED IDEAS

Mambo Unlimited Ideas is a Portuguese company that designs and produces furniture, ceramics, accessories and lighting. If you're looking for a statement piece, you're likely find it here – whether it's wire cage lamps, wood inlay cabinets, quirky decor ornaments or intricate wall claddings! Its modern Portuguese designs are bold and full of personality, and can be further customised with a wide range of finishes.

www.mambo-unlimitedideas.com





CARLO

The Bali-based Italian brand fuses artisanal craftsmanship with natural materials from Indonesia, such as coconut shells, mother of pearl and tree bark, to create refined, contemporary furniture. Each piece is handmade and finished impeccably to showcase the versatility and beauty of organic materials.

www.carloshowroom.com



SECRETS SHOWCASE

Local designer George Soo curated a special showcase of IFFS' most distinctive exhibitors at one of the fair's main entrances, setting up a grand welcome for visitors. Fantastical installations were created for the Secrets showcase, using each of the eight brands' outstanding designs, including multicoloured chairs from Woven+, and hand-woven rugs from Sharda.

www.iffs.com.sg



photo KIAT (SYSTEM SOVEREIGN)



LUZERNE

Luzerne, an internationally recognised local brand, is the hospitality industry's go-to source for tableware. With its new retail offering, a diverse range made of ceramic and stone, the contemporary tableware designs will fit into any stylish home, too. The Volupte series (pictured) designed by patissier Janice Wong, in collaboration with Swarovski, features crystals on plates and dessert platters.

www.luzerne.com



photo LUZERNE



AT HOME WITH MAKE ROOM

Make Room's showcase at Singaplural's festival site really showed off the company's prowess in decorating and styling. With bold-coloured walls, rustic furniture, botanical art, Scandinavian-style accessories, and industrial-style furniture from Journey East, the team behind the store transformed the previously drab space into an inspiration-filled room!

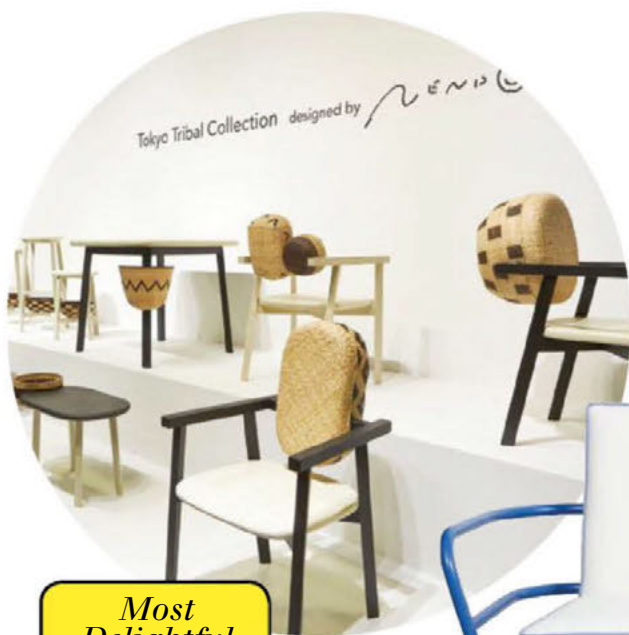
Make Room is located at #10-01 Tan Boon Liat Building, 315 Outram Road, Singapore, tel: +65-9113-1274.



HEATHERWICK STUDIO'S EXHIBITION

British designer Thomas Heatherwick was in town to launch the New British Inventors: Inside Heatherwick Studios exhibition at the National Design Centre, where he charmed the crowd with his animated and humorous recollections of notable projects, such as the UK pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010 and the Learning Hub at Nanyang Technological University. "Rather than having a single mantra, the studio is always about finding solutions for clients," Thomas surmises.

www.heatherwick.com



*Most
Delightful*

△ TOKYO TRIBAL EXHIBITION

In collaboration with local design company Industry+, Japanese design studio Nendo presented a collection of peculiar furniture pieces which have simple forms and compact sizes suitable for contemporary, urban spaces. The designs incorporate a tribal twist with contrasting prints and ethnic materials. Bamboo and rattan “baskets” appear to meld into many of the pieces, adding storage space and a touch of the unexpected.

www.industryplus.com.sg

www.nendo.jp



LIAO DESIGN

“I want to design pieces that people can be creative with,” says Jia Hao Liao of his versatile designs, including the 1+1+1 chair which can be transformed into a coffee table, a chair or an armchair. Another flexible piece by the Paris-based, Singaporean designer is the Modu sofa (pictured, available at For The Common Goods), which has cushions and coffee-table modules that can be mixed to form various configurations.

www.jiahao.liao.com

www.forthecommongoods.com.sg



photo LIAO DESIGN



MUSE DESIGN BONSAI CABINET

The Thai design workshop and manufacturer is inspired by Asian and European visual arts, and creates accent furniture, art, decor and lighting using natural materials. The limited-edition Bonsai cabinet (only 10 pieces!) stands out thanks to its exquisitely crafted details and finishing, and is derived from the idea of a tree growing into a reclaimed wood cabinet. The branches, found on the cabinet doors and in the interior, are made of bronze, while the cabinet itself is made of burnt oak wood.

www.muse-th.com ●



TIZUMUKA STUDIO

Former interior and furniture design lecturer Ivan Ho struck out on his own not too long ago, and has already been recognised with an honorable mention at the Red Dot Design Award in 2014 for his Yodeesa stool (pictured). Yodeesa stands for “one, two, three” in Hokkien, and its name is derived from its three components (seat, legs and knob), which can be disassembled without tools, making it easy to store or transport.

www.tizumuka.tumblr.com



photo TIZUMUKA



SHOP THE WORLD

You don't need a plane ticket to buy furniture and accessories designed and made in all corners of the globe. Contemporary Danish, Italian, French and Japanese designs are some of the most distinctive furnishing styles, and these are pieces you can use to indulge in your wanderlust for design.



Cenova sofa with
resting unit, from
BoConcept



DENMARK

Some of the most revered names in furniture design are Danish, and the user-friendly and functional qualities of pieces designed by masters such as Arne Jacobsen and Hans Wegner still remain in designs today. While Danish homes tend to have pared-down palettes and unfussy aesthetics; with the country's renowned heritage in woodworking, it's the high-quality craftsmanship and exquisite finishes that speak volumes. ➤

1 Carl Hansen & Son CH445 Armchair by Hans. J. Wegner, from Space

2 Wood wall clock, from BoConcept

3 KOLDBY cow hide, from Ikea

4 Vitra L'Oiseau by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, from Space

5 LENNART drawer unit, from Ikea

6 SANELA cushion cover, from Ikea

7 VIGDIS cushion cover, from Ikea



8 Extendable
Milano table,
from BoConcept.

9 Mysterio
suspension lamp,
from Lightcraft

10 Carl Hansen
& Son CH24
Wishbone Chair,
from Space



9




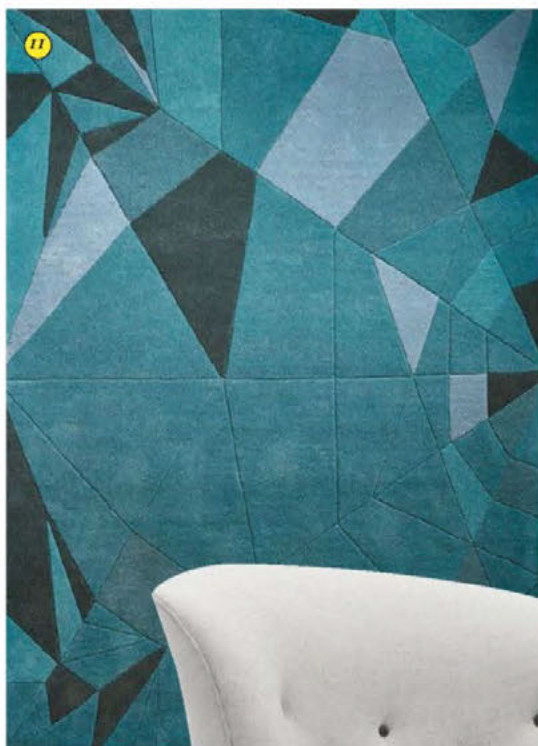
10



Bari table, London chairs, and Meda
wall system, from BoConcept

11 Penguin rug,
from BoConcept

12 Carl Hansen
& Son CH419
Heritage Chair by
Frits Henningsen,
from Space. 



Limited-edition
Egg chair, from
Fritz Hansen.





ITALY

You can always recognise an Italian influence in a furniture piece from its fluid, almost sexy lines, and streamlined profile. Contemporary Italian designs have pushed the limits of traditional craftsmanship in natural materials, such as marble and leather, to the very edge. Whether beautifully sleek or luxuriously flashy, Italian pieces never fail to make a statement. ➤



1 Maxalto Alcor sideboard, from Space

2 Campo Anastasia lounge suite, from Star Living

3 Albero bookcase, from Xtra

4 Slamp Morgana pendant lamp, from Lightcraft

5 Maxalto Leukon Standing Lamp by Antonio Citterio, from Space

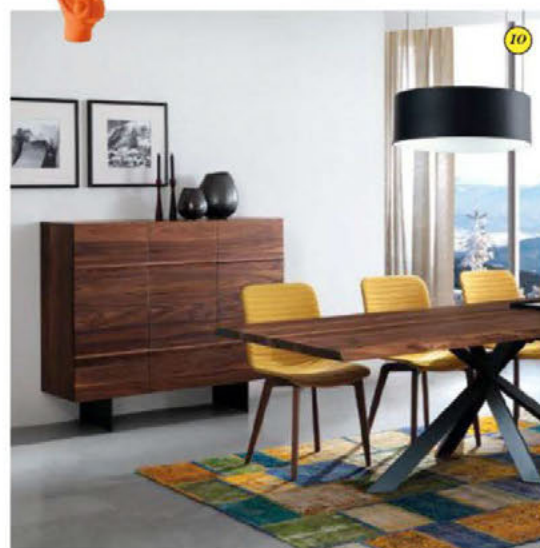
6 Saporini Capri leather sofa, from Harvey Norman.

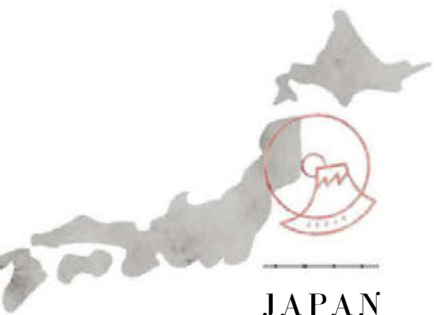
7 Magis Proust armchair, from Xtra.

8 Monte chair, from BoConcept

9 Moreso Take A Line For A Walk armchair, from Xtra

10 Oliver B Montana solid walnut dining table, from Harvey Norman





JAPAN

If you're wondering why Japanese interiors always seem to appear incredibly calming, it's because their furniture design has its roots in basic function. The well thought-out and expertly crafted pieces are in line with the philosophy of Scandinavian design, too. But physical and cultural differences have made Japanese furniture proportions more compact and closer to the ground. Traditionally, they show a preference for darker wood, such as oak and walnut, as well as darker fabrics. And more uniquely, Japanese pieces can be rather whimsical, too! 🇯🇵



Kyoto sofa bed,
from BoConcept



1 Cage suspension
bronzio grande
lamp, from
Lightcraft

2 Oki trays, from
BoConcept

3 Slamp Battista
floor lamp, from
Lightcraft

4 Osaka sofa, from
BoConcept

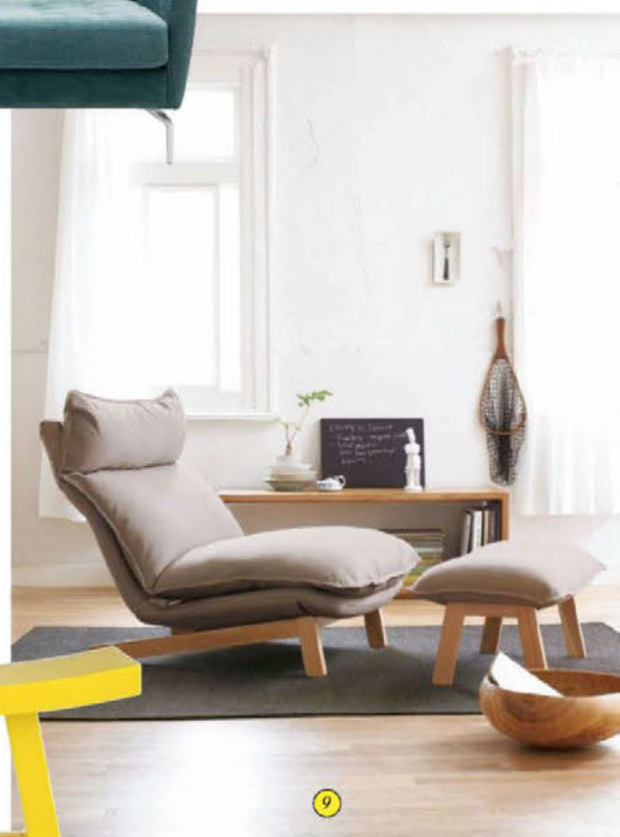
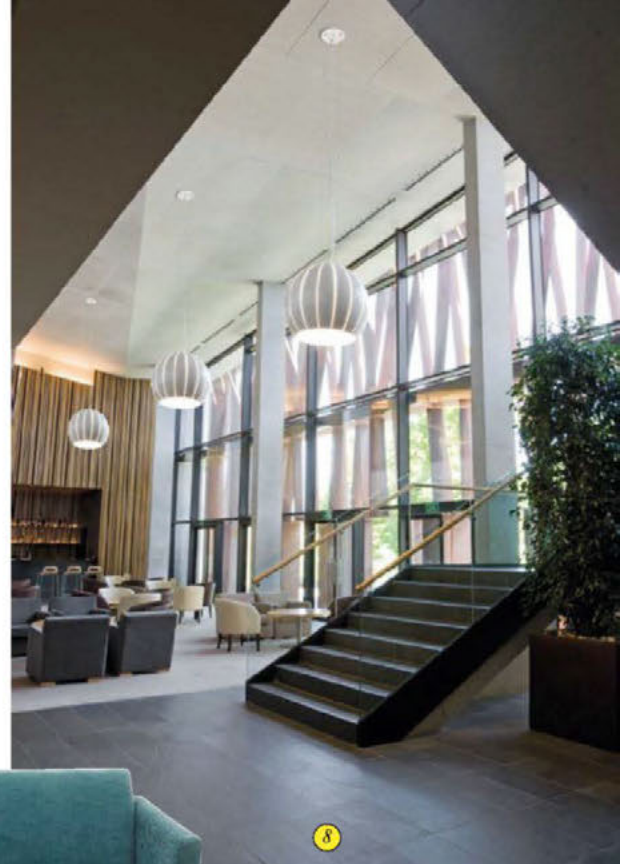
5 Como bookcase,
from BoConcept

6 Vitra Butterfly
stool designed by
Sori Yanagi, from,
from Space.

7 Osaka stool, from
BoConcept

8 Vibia Citrus
pendant lamp

9 High-back
recliner one-seater
sofa and footstool,
from Muji





FRANCE

Contemporary French designs have come a long way from the style's more opulent past, and are now known for their sophisticated charm, which is always marked with a tinge of glamour, and a sharp fashion-forward use of colour. While these pieces range from dreamy to dramatic, they're also understatedly stylish. The trick is in putting them all together effortlessly. ➤

Emeco Kong Collection
Chairs by Philippe
Starck, from Space



1 B&B Italia Seven
table by Jean Marie
Massaud, from Space



2 Toa armchair, from
Ligne Roset

3 Text Vase I and II,
from BoConcept

4 Flos Chapeau lamp
by Philippe Starck,
from Space

5 Everywhere TV
console, from Ligne
Roset





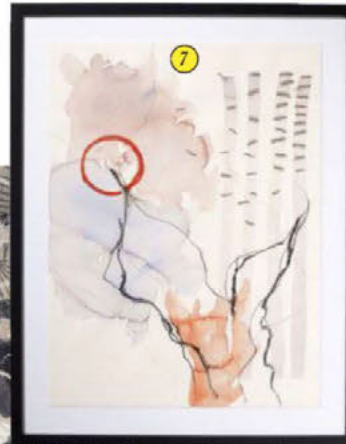
6 Kartell masters Chair by Phillipe Starck & Eugeni Quittlet, from Space

7 New Possibility 1 photo art, from BoConcept

8 New Possibility 2 photo art, from BoConcept

9 Kasthall Dag & Natt Rug by Petra Lundblad Friden, from Space

10 Marie Claire Milano sofa, from Harvey Norman ●



MAD ABOUT LEATHER

Leather, the epitome of Punk in both fashion and furniture. It is highly versatile and can spice things up in the form of a prominent fixture in any kind of room, with themes ranging from Victorian, Gothic to posh elegance. This month, we explore the things you need to know about leather and how you can incorporate them into your homes.



HOW DO YOU INCORPORATE LEATHER INTO YOUR HOME?

1. You don't have to incorporate a large quantity of leather into a room to achieve a simple and elegant look. Start with a large piece of leather furniture, and if you must, add two to three leather accessories per room at the most.

2. Make sure larger pieces of furniture and accessories are well spread out to avoid a room looking small and restrictive. Too much leather exposes you to the extremes of both hot and cold due to its inverse relationship with its surrounding temperature.

3. Creating a room with a theme is as simple as ABC. Leather adapts to any style so you don't have to worry about pairing it with accessories made of other materials.

4. If you feel adventurous enough, introduce a variety of textures by having both a cow hide rug as well as a leather sofa in your living room, accessorising with fabric cushions as you go. These will provide a warm and cosy atmosphere to any room you choose to incorporate them in. There are various types of leathers to choose from; try pairing a glossy and sleek black crocodile leather headboard with mirror frames in your bedroom for contrast.

5. Transform your room interior from classic to modern contemporary and vice versa with cutting edge designs from Space Furniture, BoConcept, LigneRoset, Ikea and Harvey Norman.



Tone down the effects of leather by pairing it with accessories of various materials such as glass, silver, wood and marble. 🏠



photo VEE CHIN



photo SPACE FURNITURE



LIVING ROOM

1. Unlike our local custom-made rattan chairs, the PP126 Leather Easy Chair designed by Hans.J Wegner for PP Mobler is exceptionally stylish and comfortable. You won't have to feel the solid wood frame of this rocking chair when leaning back as it is upholstered with leather on both seat and back.

Available from Space Furniture.

2. Soft, furry, and durable, the Marguerite rug is made from 100 percent tanned cowhide. Natural patterns in black, brown and white make this piece unique.

Available from LigneRoset.

3. Old fashioned, clean square lines dominate the quilted seats of Saporini's Alessia; it is supported by polished metal legs and a plexiglass base. The three-seater couch is made from cowhide, and comes in a striking red colour.

Available Harvey Norman.

4. The Stockholm pouffe doubles up as a seat. It comes with a smooth and soft cover made from top grain leather.

Available from Ikea.



STUDY ROOM

1. Be enveloped in the soft and round Caddy Wing Armchair, a Carlo Colombo design. Both chair and pouffe can be moved around easily as they are equipped with one-directional wheels at the front and spherical wheels at the back, respectively.

Available from Space Furniture.

2. The CH419 Heritage Chair is designed by Frits Henningsen for Carl Hansen & Son. The armchair, crafted of leather with legs of oak or walnut, brings a sense of tranquility to a room. Its design takes after the form of a 1940's armchair. It also comes in a traditional plush pattern.

Available from Space Furniture.

3. Although it is designed to be used in the living room, the Boston chair, of unique light caramel leather has a tilt function. It serves well for users who spend long hours in the study, perfect for brief naps with its "scooped seat." Furthermore, its swivel function allows users to reach out for things easily, as well as to move the accompanying flat-surfaced footstool about.

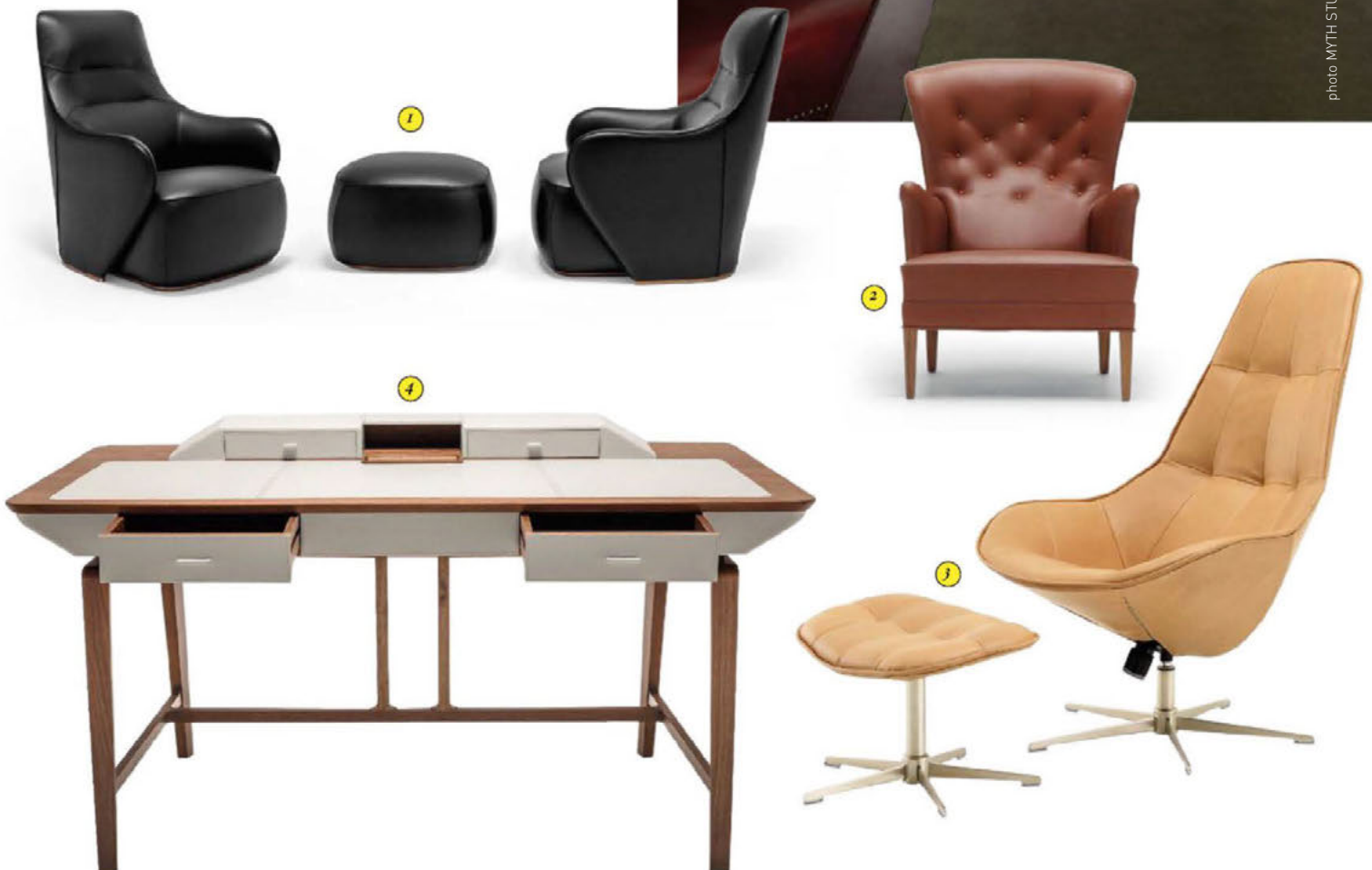
Both available separately from BoConcept.

4. The elegant Studium Writing Desk, designed by Umberto Asnago for Giorgetti has a saddle leather surface and four drawers in a solid veneered walnut Canaletto frame.

Available from Space Furniture. ▶



photo MYTH STUDIO





LEATHER IS BEST PAIRED WITH

1. Gleaming Silver or durable Pewter. These add luxury to your room. Royal Selangor's 8515 Collection consists of a tankard, tea caddy, tea set and photo frames in various sizes.

2. Glass and crystal. If you're using plenty of leather in a room, make use of the translucent quality of glass and crystal. Made of these materials, Liuligongfang's Propitious Abundance can serve as balance for heavier materials like leather and metal.



3. Marble. The epitome of elegance can be seen in the pairing of a soft and rough leather surface with the smooth and marbled pattern of a stone table. Only one or two accessories are needed to accentuate the beauty of these pieces. The B&B Italia Tobi-ishi Table in Marquina Black Marble is designed by Edward Barber & Jay Osgerby. Available from Space Furniture.



TYPES OF LEATHER

Beyond placing emphasis on using the right proportions of leather in a room, it is just as important to choose the type of leather with the right texture (like fingerprints, leather grains differ) and colour to befit the style of your home. The lifespan and durability of leather also differs, so take all this into consideration when making your purchase.

In general, there are several types of leather:

1. When it comes to furniture, top grain is the finest, and the best choice. This is the epidermis of top quality hide and is left untouched except for the removal of animal hair. It is not only durable, but breathes better and develops a shine over time.
2. After the top grain has been separated, the fibrous part of rawhide is again split multiple times to obtain split leather. It has an added artificial layer and is embossed with leather grain. Suede is an example.
3. Corrected grain is buffed to remove imperfections on the surface. Sometimes it results in an artificial grain.
4. Patented leather has a high gloss finish, usually with a plastic coating.
5. Vachetta is untreated leather used in trimmings of luggage and home accessories. It is prone to stains and water damage.
6. Deerskin is tough, durable and expensive leather used in sporting equipment and handbags.
7. Nubuck is made of cattle hide. It is a great example of top grain leather, which is treated to give a velvety texture. It is used in briefcases and wallets. ▶

TIP

Leather with fur still attached is called hair-on.



photo VEE CHIN



Be careful when you play around with texture and the grains of leather. If you're pairing two different accessories or pieces of furniture, try those with the same grains to avoid the clashing of patterns. Also, be sure to check if the chemicals used in dyeing or lacquering will affect the lifespan of the other.



COLOUR

Choosing the right colours for your home is not that difficult. Here is what you need to consider:

Dyed leather may look synthetic to the eye but offers a dramatic effect to a room. When using leather, you can achieve a 1940's theme in your room with colours such as green, pink and red. However, the natural colour of leather is limited and you may play around with three different colours at most.

Glossy or not glossy? No matter how much you polish your matte leather to get it to shine, some leathers just seem to outshine it. Acquire patent leather if you want gloss, as it is given a glossy finish through a lacquering process.



1. The SÄTER 2.5-seat sofa from Ikea is made of dyed split leather. Embossed and pigmented, its surface is in Frasier dark brown.
Available from Ikea.

2. Not too light and not too dark, the Fly Chair is made of Estoril leather, and caters to users who seek a unique brown leather piece in a clean-cut design.
Available from BoConcept.

3. It is not all too difficult to find a white leather armchair. Made from dyed grain leather, the POÄNG armchair is **available from Ikea.**

4. Designed by Marcel Wanders for Moooi, the soft, puffy and stylish Monster Chair is best suited for the dining area.
Available from Space Furniture.

5. Extra padding on its armrests and adjustable back cushions ensure comfort in the form of the Mezzo sofa. Customise your sofa based on your needs. You are able to choose from different seating units to the colour of the legs. Furthermore, the sofa, of stone Bahia leather, comes with exclusive stitching details.
Available from BoConcept.



MAINTENANCE

Here are some simple guidelines to follow in maintaining your leather furniture.

1. Prevent cracks by cleaning your leather furniture three to four times a year. Cracks occur mainly because leather is porous. As its protective coating chips off, it will begin to accumulate and soak in body oil and dirt. If you have to buy a commercial product to clean, be sure to try it out on a hidden part of your piece to ensure that it is suitable for use. Ikea's ABSORB leather care set includes a sponge, cleaner and leather cream that retains the softness, and prolongs the lifespan of leather. It prevents drying and cracking.

2. Spills on leather require immediate attention, as they may leave stains. For grease stains, use baking soda. Leave it in a few hours before removing.

3. Dust or vacuum the gaps in a couch. Consider placing a cover over the couch when it is not in use.

4. Do not place leather furniture directly under the sunlight as it will cause discolouration and cracking.

5. Use your fingers to polish leather. Applying it in a circular motion also helps the leather to absorb the polish at a faster rate.



You may apply baby oil on your scratched leather furniture, but as a preventive measure, apply leather conditioner twice a year. Gentle scratches can be buffed away and hidden from sight using colourant products. Repairing a tear, however, requires trimming, a sub-patch, glue, fillers, colourant and leather finish.



Use three of your senses to tell the difference between natural or manmade leather

1. See. Check the tag for the price and material such as bonded or vinyl leather. Faux leather is often made from materials such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or polyurethane which cracks. It does not last as long as authentic leather which falls under the category of pure aniline, semi-aniline or pigmented leather. Don't forget to check the patterns and pores of the leather. Aligned pores indicate faux leather.

2. Touch. Real leather has rough edges while faux leather feels smooth and cold. Furthermore, authentic leather should feel supple and flexible. Press down on the leather or leave an

indentation with your fingernail; the mark should remain for a minute or so after you lift your finger.

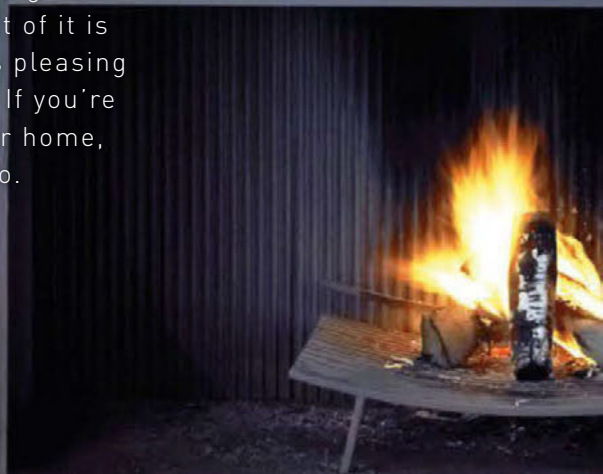
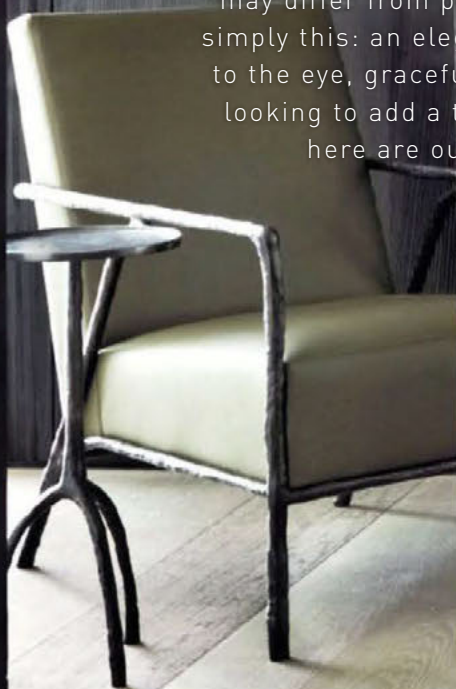
3. Smell. The smell of leather is a far cry from the scent plastic produces. Note that genuine leather without any dye or sanding may give off a stronger leather scent.

What are the signs of old leather and how do you know when it is time to get new furniture?

Leather wears thin after years of wear and tear. Frequent occurrence of holes, scratches, cracks and bursting seams may be a sign for you to get new leather furniture. Although leather furniture can be mended when new, there comes a time it can no longer be repaired. ●

THE ELEGANT 30

Elegance is a concept fuelled and encouraged by individuality. Yet, while the definition of elegance may differ from person to person, the root of it is simply this: an elegant space is one that is pleasing to the eye, graceful and stylish to behold. If you're looking to add a touch of elegance to your home, here are our favourite ways to do so.



A dark, modern interior featuring a fireplace with a fire burning, a stack of firewood, and a partition screen made of vertical wooden slats. The floor is made of light-colored wood.

GO DARK

Darker tones in a space speak of sophistication and provide a sense of calm and decorum. They allow for the detailing on your other furnishings to really stand out. You can incorporate darker shades of your favourite colours into your decor, whether it is in your walls, floors, or furnishings.

I

2

PARTITIONING SECTIONS

Studio apartments and other small spaces needn't be anything less than magnificent. Use screens or two-way bookcase systems to partition off segments of your space, creating clear, defined borders; they are both functional, as well as stylish, lending an air of structure. In a larger space, you can do the same by adding panels of wood to section off living areas. ▶





photo DARREN CHANG

DRESS UP YOUR WALLS

A minimalist approach to putting together a room can establish an elegant air. Further enhance this simplicity and let it to shine against the backdrop of ornate wallpaper designs. Dress your walls up in brocade. Worn by the royals of old, brocade patterns are often associated with old time class and the sophistication of grand European palaces.

4

LIGHT FROM ABOVE

Chandeliers are many things. Function and beautifully-sculpted form, designs for chandeliers can range from elaborate to simple. The presence of a chandelier in your home space can add a touch of elegance; a highly-ornamented chandelier can serve as a focus to centre the room, whilst simpler chandeliers further enhance chic spaces.

ADD SOME SOFTNESS

Nothing says elegance like arched windows and sumptuous, floor-length curtains. Besides providing texture to accentuate otherwise unadorned walls, they can serve as a means to add colour to a room. Besides colour, however, curtains can also be customised in various other ways: length, fabric, style, railings, and so on. This essentially means that they can be used in many different ways to accentuate the sophistication of your living space.

WHITE LIGHTS OR YELLOW?

Choose between white and yellow bulbs to drastically alter the feel of your room. White lights are best suited for workspaces requiring focus and sharp vision such as the study room, or in the kitchen where all the fancy knife work happens. Choose yellow lights for ambient rooms meant for relaxation such as the den, living hall, or bedroom. If you can't decide, install different lights in your rooms in white and yellow, so you'll always have the right lighting solution for ambience and functionality! Dimmable lights are also useful for this purpose.

6



photo IKEA

TIP

Try matching your curtains to other elements in your space. You can use the same colour scheme in your curtains and furnishing accessories such as rugs, throws, framed pictures and flower arrangements, among others. Doing so will help to bring the room together more harmoniously, whilst simultaneously providing splashes of colour that appeal to the senses visually.



photo IKEA

BLACK AND GOLD ALCHEMY

The combination of gold and black speaks of timeless elegance. A white wall provides a clean backdrop with which to make black furnishings stand out; gold accessories like vases and ornate mirrors add a hint of new-age chic befitting business tycoons. Black walls, on the other hand, take ornamentation beautifully. Choose elaborate upholstery for your chairs, brocade paired with dark, glossy wood.

8



photo SPACE

TIP

Unlike fabric, leather does not attract a lot of dust mites and stains, which makes maintenance and care a simple affair. Use gentle methods of cleaning so you do not stain or damage the leather. Deal with stains immediately with a clean white cloth dampened with a little bit of mild soap. Gently rub small circles around the stain, then absorb excess moisture with another clean, dry piece of cloth.

9

SLEEK FURNISHINGS

While a more traditional definition of elegance may defer to ornate pieces and classically- beautiful works of art, our modern world has expanded the definition. Contemporary designs are often simple, with clean lines and minimal ornamentation.

10

STEEL

With the rising popularity of the bare, industrial look, steel has become a favoured fixture for homes all over. Use floor-to-ceiling steel beams to cordon off your stairwell, or simply incorporate it in the form of furniture for contemporary class and a new-age feel to your home. ▶



photo SPACE

ACCESSORISE AWAY!

It's amazing just how much a well-placed accessory can do for your space. Fluff up some throw cushions and put them on your couch, and watch as it is transformed into an entirely new piece of furniture. Add rugs, vases, figurines, flowers, jars, candles – the list goes on. If you're looking to add a touch of ornamentation to your walls, try using pictures, drawings and meaningful photographs. Be sure to frame them in semi-matching materials. A lovely combination is black with white or gold.

photo M. SEELEN FOR LIAIGRE



II I2

MONOCHROME PALETTES

A lot can be done with monochrome palettes in your home. Far from being boring, a monochrome palette can imbue a sense of calm and peace in any setting. Try using a combination of shades from the same colour for variation.

TIP

Consider a monochrome palette if you have a great view through full-length windows. The monochrome palette will help to frame your magnificent view without distractions, giving you a full, unobstructed view beyond.



I3

TRY SHABBY CHIC

While it may sound counter-intuitive that the words shabby and stylish can co-exist in the same sentence, don't write the style off just yet. A well thought-out combination of antique furnishings and raw elements in your decor can work wonders in your interior, creating an atmosphere that is both inviting, yet tasteful. Don't be afraid to match antique pieces to modern designs; it's all a matter of finding the right pieces to fit into the scheme of your design.

photo SPACE

14 BARE IT ALL

It may be counter-intuitive to leave a wall bare when shooting for elegance, but don't underestimate the power behind an artfully placed brick or cement-covered wall. Raw, industrial colours have been much employed as of late, and are easily incorporated into sleek and urban spaces. Choose contemporary furnishings with simple, clean designs and add a touch of glitz with some choice lighting.

16 WELL-MARBLED

Think back to all the beautiful hotels you've ever visited. There are things that stand out in a well-designed foyer; a beautiful chandelier, plush lounge chairs for visitors, lacquered furniture and gleaming, gorgeously-veined marble floors beneath your feet that are the very definition of luxury. There's a reason marble is so prized, and so often found in the elegant English mansions, whether it is in the masonry or as accents in furniture, such as in tables.

15



MIRROR, MIRROR

Mirrors come in all shapes, sizes, and designs; all add a sense of sophistication to a room. Well-placed mirrors reflect many things, serving to make a room seem larger than it really is. Decorative hanging mirrors add a touch of glamour to your walls, whilst full-length mirrors invoke a sense of grandeur reminiscent of glitzy ballrooms.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT WINDOW

Nothing says elegance like French windows and doors that flood your house in natural sunlight. Architecturally and stylistically beautiful to look upon, French windows instantly add a sense of grandeur to your space, opening the space up with a view beyond the glass. Try full-length, arched and latticed windows as ornamentation for your walls, and pair with plain drapes. ▶

17



photo SPACE

18



photo ALAN LEE/KSTUDIO

19

GIVE YOUR KITCHEN SOME LOVE

Islands and hanging chandeliers can work wonders in the kitchen, and are also functional, if you have the room to incorporate them. Opt for sleek marble worktops and gold handles paired with solid wood for an appealing, timeless look. Alternatively, if it's modern elegance you're after, try to incorporate industrial steel and dark granite countertops. Don't discount the beauty of light and dark combinations; whitewashed cabinets with black countertops are an absolute joy, both to look at, and to decorate around.



Copper cookware can accent your kitchen decor in wonderful ways. Hang those you use often and are proud of over your stove for easy access. You can also show off your collection of serving and dining sets in cabinets.

The kitchen is one place where general rules for decor differ. Where else could one use food as decorations? Baskets of fruit make for splendid and delicious centrepieces and glass jars of pickles and other kitchen staples add colour and vibrance.

SQUARES AND TILES

Tiles should not merely be confined to the bathroom! Instead of brick walls, try tiling a section of your space with a checkerboard of black and white tiles. This sets the space up nicely for minimalist decor in neutral, monochromatic tones whilst providing a spark of interest in the tiled section.

20



photo DARREN CHANG

GO MOD, GO VINTAGE

Embrace the sleek lines and beautiful colours of vintage design. While full-force mod styling can sometimes be a touch overwhelming, a touch of it can truly spruce up a dull interior. Choose mod colours for your walls: avocado green, orange, yellow, and turquoise, and match with white and neutral furnishings, adding accents as you go. Alternatively, add traces of psychedelic hues like fuchsia with a lighter hand.

21

photo M. SEELEN FOR LIAIGRE



BACK TO BASICS

Earthen tones exude a sort of raw, yet calming effect in any space. Far from being boring, nude tones in varying shades can serve to elevate the classy vibes surrounding your decor, bringing to mind the modest, yet alluring beauties of 1950s Hollywood. You can opt to incorporate these tones in various materials; light woods, upholstery, and walls to name a few.

22

WOOD AND GRAIN

Oft-employed in crafting graceful lines and smooth planes, wooden furnishings are an integral part of designing an elegant space. Dark, polished wood adds a sense of calm, and is easy to pair with other colours and textures. Use this as a base in fittings to build the rest of your furnishings around. You can complement dark wood with lighter neutral tones.

23

SIMPLIFY AND DECLUTTER

Understated elegance is most certainly not a thing of the past. A simplified space appears both larger, and more spacious, with minimalist furnishings in matching tones. Such a space generally appears clean and free of excess disorder, allowing for the furnishings you've selected to truly stand out.

24

MAKE A STATEMENT WITH STANDING LAMPS

Lamps are more than functional lighting for when the sun goes down. Neither do they simply stand to form straight lines. If you have a large space to fill up, consider a lamp with a curved stand.



Standing lamps can be customised in a number of ways. If your standing lamp allows for customisation where the lampshade is concerned, you can keep around a selection to mix and match for changing around with drapery and other room accents.

25

INCLUDE THE UNEXPECTED

The art of design has never been exclusively square or round. Some of the best designer pieces include odd shapes that embrace their differences, fitting perfectly into more conventional square or round spaces. Having an unexpectedly-shaped piece in a space can breathe new life into your other furnishings, rounding your decor off in an interesting way. ▶



photo SPACE



photo BOCONCEPT

26



photo BOCONCEPT

MIX AND MATCH

Fabrics are everywhere in our homes. Bedding, throws, upholstery and curtains; they're prevalent and can make a world of difference when used both appropriately and adversely. Try mixing up your fabrics by throwing a patterned pillow in amongst flat-coloured ones. Balance is everything, so make sure you get a good combination of both. Too many patterned pieces will fast become tiresome to the eyes, whilst too few can make a space appear sterile.

BEAUTIFUL DOORWAYS

Like windows, doorways bridging the rooms of your home can be used as a means to enhance the feel of your space. Doorways narrow or wide and arched or straight can really add to the openness of a space, allowing for a room to feel significantly larger. Ornate intricacies can be worked into the frame of the door for additional embellishment.

27

28

ADD SOME COLOUR

Don't be afraid to experiment with colour in your space. Colours evoke strong emotions, so use them freely in decorating. Why not try a splash of green by way of a singular couch or rugs in a neutral-coloured space?

29

BALANCING ACT

Balance is everything in life. In design, a good balance in proportions enables you to create the illusion of space in your home, providing a variation in heights, colours, shapes and sizes. Be careful to not over-clutter the space with accessories; practice decorating with a light hand.

30

ART UP

Deck the walls with art and photographs to add a touch of adornment. Framed pictures are a lovely way to personalise your home, as well as to showcase your collection. If you're a painter, don't hesitate in putting your work up for viewing. Framed artworks can be put up in a myriad of ways. Try using several smaller frames in conjunction with larger ones. They'll look lovely as part of a collage on a segment of your wall. ●





DIRECT
FROM
MILAN

THE RIGHT



From what we've gathered at the Salone del Mobile in Milan, you can expect home decor trends in the year ahead to revolve around approachable designs that can blend easily into any modern home.

Once a year, for a week in April, Milan transforms into a fabulous stage where the international design scene gathers to showcase their much-anticipated new works and concepts for interiors. And at the heart of it all is the Salone del Mobile, the colossal furniture trade fair in which leading manufacturers and celebrated designers unveil their new collections.

Simple, comfortable designs continue to dominate the exhibition halls. It was, however, a delight to see that a few progressive brands have created amusing furniture pieces by having fun with design, and experimenting with palettes that leaned towards interesting shades such as green, as seen over the next few pages.

FIT



1

1 The mobile Trotter chair by Dutch designer Rogier Martens for Magis' Me Too collection allows children to move their designated seat around the house quickly and easily. www.magismetoo.com

2 Four decades after it was created by Italian designer Vico Magistretti, Cassina's well-loved Maralunga sofa with adjustable headrests has evolved into the Maralunga 40, which comes dressed in removable fabric upholstery and an understated stitching detail. www.cassina.com

3 Philippe Starck's quirky Boxinbox shelf for Glas Italia transforms something as practical as storage space into a fun conversational piece! www.glasitalia.com

4 Made up of two "zeros", British architect David Adjaye's Double Zero chair for Moroso is jazzed up with bright green upholstery and a gold-plated steel frame. www.moroso.it

Greener on This Side

Ranging from bright neon tones to darker, more regal shades, green proved to be the versatile colour of choice this spring.



4



5 Minotti's Leslie armchair by Milan-born Rodolfo Dordoni has an enveloping back and a deep, wide seat that offers a sensual embrace. www.minotti.com

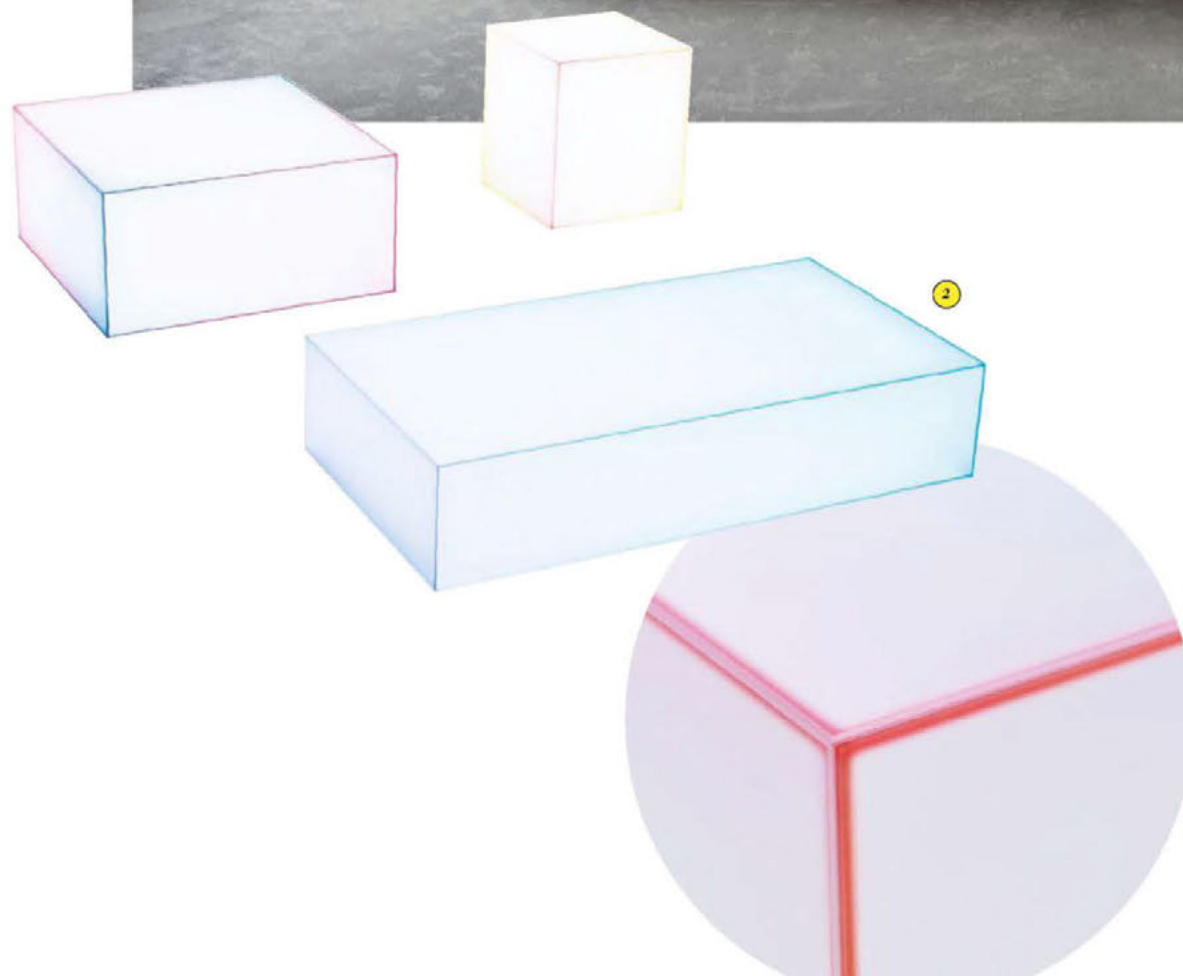
6 Piero Lissoni's Lochness cabinet for Cappellini is bathed in a shade of teal that harks back to the 1950s. www.cappellini.it

7 Staying true to its environmentally friendly roots, Emeco's new Alfi chair designed by Jasper Morrison has a seat that's made entirely of reclaimed post-industrial waste, and comes in earthy tones such as green and sand. www.emeco.net

8 A simple mechanism allows the Casamania Summit sofa by Italian designer Giulio Iacchetti to transform into two plush armchairs. We love the leather handle details on its back, too! www.casamania.it

Strikingly Simple

This year's minimalist designs took on playful forms and palettes, serving up delightful styles in measured doses.



1 True to e15's unfussy design language, the Fayland table and Fawley bench by British architect David Chipperfield has a straightforward silhouette that allows the material – European walnut and solid oak – to stand out. www.e15.com

2 Nendo lent a delicate exquisiteness to the Soft frosted glass tables for Glas Italia by having a gradation of colours printed where the glass panels joined. www.glasitalia.com



6 Designed by Austrian Martin Mostböck, Moroso's Flaxx chair has a seat which is made from recyclable fibre mats, and seems to defy gravity thanks to a simple yet clever frame support. www.moroso.it

7 American designer Marc Thorpe created Lily for Casamania with customisation in mind. The upholstered version works as a footrest, while the solid wood version – which is taller – functions as a coffee table. www.casamania.it

8 Knoll's Pilot chair by London-based studio Barber & Osgerby has a simple yet arresting silhouette. Armrests can be added to this chair to suit more formal office settings. www.knoll.com



3 Paris-based Israeli designer Arik Levy played up Ton's wood-bending tradition with the Split chair, which uses manually bent split wood as a support for the seat and backrest. www.ton.eu

4 Named after a bustling Parisian town where Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec's design studio was founded, the Belleville table and chair which the brothers have created for Vitra showcase a simple play on lines and curves. www.vitra.com

5 MDF's surrealist Randomissimo shelf by German design studio Neuland Industriedesign comes in two modular variations, allowing users to create a variety of shelving designs. www.mdfitalia.it

Many European brands and designers favoured unfussy designs that focus on high-quality materials and durability.





Be Amused

When the world's top designers decide to have a little fun, the results are endlessly charming.

1



1 Designed by Konstantin Grcic, the exaggerated tubular form that makes up the back and armrests of the Magis Sam Son chair not only allows for more comfort, but also creates a trademark silhouette. www.magisdesign.com

2 Ron Arad challenged himself to create a sofa that was made out of a singular volume, and the result is the Glider sofa for Moroso, which, like the name suggests, comes with a rocking mechanism. www.moroso.it

3 Add another dimension to your table with the Cosmic Diner porcelain dishes, which Diesel Living has created with Seletti. The nine planets in our solar system, including the sun and moon, are each represented on a plate. www.diesel.com

4 In its first collaboration with Alessandro Mendini, Kartell unveiled the Roy stools (named after American pop artist Roy Lichtenstein), which are covered in ethnic-inspired patterns and come in various neon colours. www.kartell.com

5 We get a glimpse of Jaime Hayon's early street culture influences in his Monkey side table for BD Barcelona, which can be used outdoors. www.bdbarcelona.com

6 To mark the 50th anniversary of Le Corbusier's passing, Cassina teamed up with Jaime Hayon to create the Reaction Poetique collection, which consists of trays and side tables inspired by the late Swiss-French architect's architecture. www.cassina.com



2



4

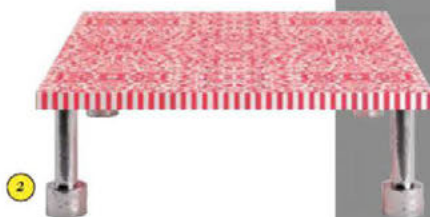


6



5

We spoke to Front, the designers of the Ellipse table, about how Porro challenged them to create this sculptural piece. Read about it at www.tinyurl.com/EllipseTable.



Leggy Beauties

Several interesting aesthetics were spotted way below eye level, with many a table sporting some attractive legs.

1 Conceptualised by the trio of female Swedish designers that make up Front, the Ellipse table for Porro is made up of two components that meet at a point where their curved surfaces strike a poetic balance. www.porro.com

4 Spanish potter Xavier Manosa has created the Fang ("clay" in Catalan) table for BD Barcelona, which showcases fine craftsmanship through its individually made porcelain stoneware legs. www.bdbarcelona.com

2 Just one part of Paola Navone's fantastical Panda Landscape for Cappellini this year, the Panda coffee table features zany patterns on its tabletop laminate and industrial cast aluminium legs. www.cappellini.it

5 The TL table by Bonaldo gets its name from its angled leg which, when combined with the tabletop, can form either of the two alphabets. This clean-cut yet dramatic design also has an extendable tabletop which can accommodate up to 12 people. www.bonaldo.it

3 Artek's new Kaari collection by the Bouroullec brothers includes a table that has a prominent "outline" which goes beyond its legs to form a wider base. www.artek.fi





1 The comfort of the indoors is brought outdoors with Tribu's Tosca daybed, designed by Monica Armani. The Italian designer's feminine touch can also be seen in the plus-sized braiding, which is covered in weather-resistant knitted textile and polyolefine. www.tribu.com

2 The generous padding offered in the Living Divani Casta chair by Italian design studio Lucidi Pevere is emphasised by a band of lacquered sheet steel, which acts like a tight belt around the chair's back. www.livingdivani.it

3 With a singular form that makes up its seat, back and armrests, and upholstered in velvet, Roche Bobois' futuristic Aircell chair by Paris-based designer Sacha Lakic invites one to sit, and stay. www.roche-bobois.com

4 Moroso continues its long-running collaboration with Patricia Urquiola, whose new sofa design, Bold, has an attractive plumpness that's bordered with a subtle stitching detail. www.moroso.it

Snuggle Up

Comfort continued to dominate most seating designs, with friendly shapes and plush padding that embraces and soothes.





1

Budding Talents

Here's our pick of innovative designs at the Salone Satellite, a showcase within the fairgrounds that houses the works of emerging designers.



2



2

1 Made up of both porous and glazed areas, the white ceramic Epiphytes vase allows an epiphyte (a type of plant that grows on other plants) to absorb water while attaching itself to it. Instead of keeping such plants in pots indoors, having them to grow on these vases allows you to admire their roots, too. www.dossoforito.com

2 The Sunflower standing floor lamp by Milan-based designer Antonio Gramegna has a fully adjustable shade that's attached to its stand via magnets, allowing users to alter the height of the light source. www.antoniogramegna.com



4

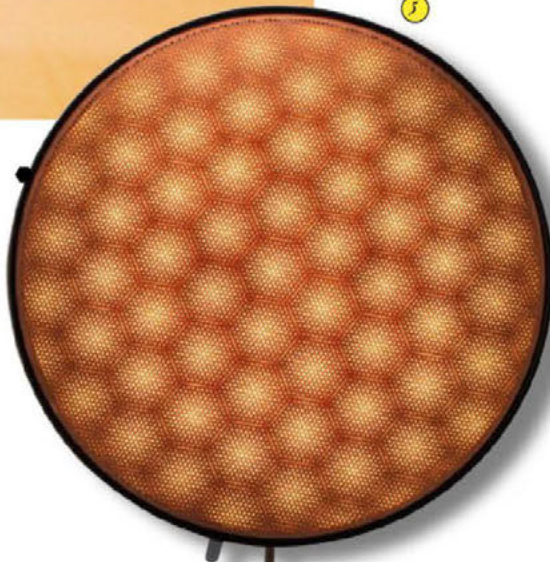


5

3 The Cloud lamps by Shanghai-based 3-D printing company Xuberance are inspired by the depictions of clouds on ancient Chinese stone sculptures. It won the first prize for the Salone Satellite Award for its use of new technology to revitalise traditional Chinese culture. www.xuberance.org

4 By pairing galvanised steel with pastel pink glass and smooth lacquered surfaces, the Zinc Project by Switzerland-based E7 Industrial Design offers a fresh interpretation of galvanisation. www.e7industrialdesign.com

5 This interactive piece by Dutch designer David Derksen allows one to explore the intriguing moiré effect. By rotating its back layer, the Moiré light produces moving patterns made up of rings, squares or hexagons. www.davidderkksen.nl





FRESH FROM MILAN

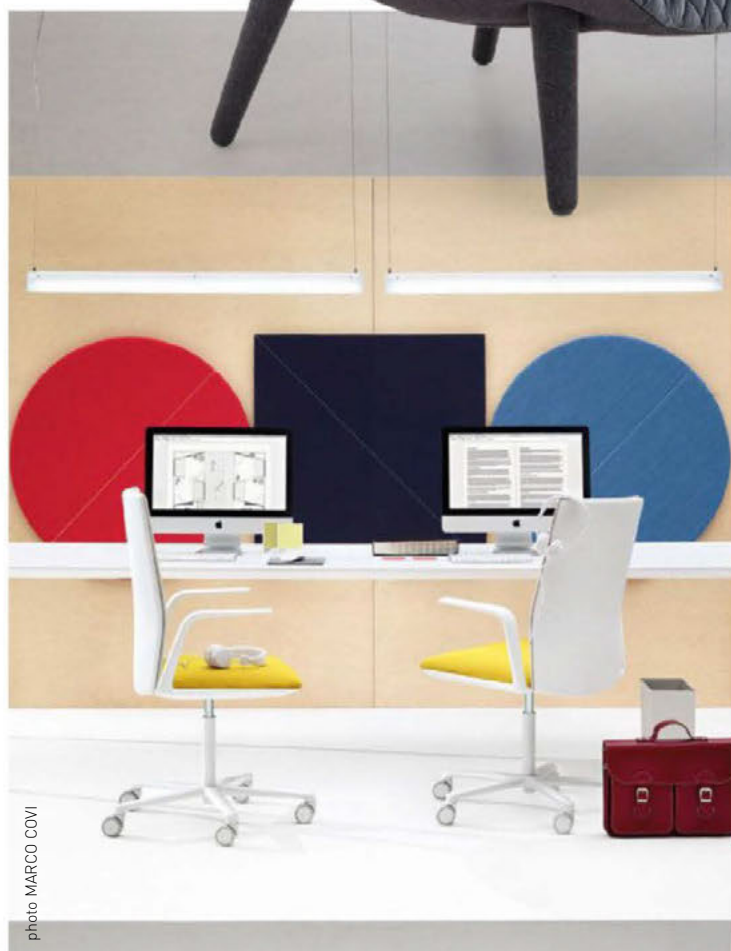
The Salone del Mobile, or as it is more popularly known – The Milan Furniture Fair is as fashionable as it sounds. And while Milanese streets may be filled with men and women in high fashion, it is the halls of Fiera Milano that play host to a grand assortment of designers during the yearly event. Drawing from the display of designs at the show, Space Furniture brings the choicest picks home, and at their annually-held Milan Talks event, unveiled prototypes to the delight of design aficionados.

A GAME OF THRONES

Thrones – or chairs, rather, were found in abundance at the Salone. With longstanding brands the likes of B&B Italia, Carl Hansen & Son, Kartell, Poliform, and Arper in the scene, the show lacked little in terms of seating, with offerings that ranged from armchairs to work chairs to dining

chairs. Elegant curves and versatility make an appearance in the form of B&B Italia's Papilio Shell chairs of Naoto Fukusawa design, as well as Arper's Aava chairs of Antti Kotilainen design. Both designs champion simplicity, choosing to fall back upon the bare essentials whilst touching on comfort and contemporary design guidelines.

ABOVE
Carl Hansen & Son
prototypes awaiting
unveiling at Space's
Milan Talks.



TOP
CH88 chair by
Hans J. Wegner for
Carl Hansen & Son.

ABOVE
Poliform's Mad Queen
armchair is the perfect
throne for any sitting
room.

LEFT
Arper's Kinesit work chair
provides ample support for
long days.

With its beautiful curves and elegantly simplistic frame, Hans J. Wegner's 1955 chair design, the CH88 reaches another milestone following production last year. 2015 will see the range expanded to include new frame colours that pay homage to Wegner's experimentation with coloured frames. Those looking to incorporate these timelessly graceful pieces into their designs can now look forward to them in a wider range of colours and materials. Of notable importance is this point: that pastels the likes of pale blues are making the rounds this year in design.

Innovation was also clearly at the forefront of all designs, evident in Arper's Kinesit chairs of Lievore Altherr Molina design, as well as in Kartell's Piuma chairs of Piero Lissoni design. The Kinesit chairs boast fully adjustable forms that allow for the seat to conform to body types, thusly heightening comfort throughout long days spent seated at work. Piuma, meaning feather in Italian, is equally lightweight, crafted of an exact blend of thermoplastic polymer compounded with numerous fibres including carbon. Almost two years in development, the Piuma chairs are made to endure. ➤



In line with the trend of expanding collections, Poliform's Mad Queen follows the success of the Mad Chair which was released in 2013. Fans of the collection can now look towards seats and tables, in addition to the strikingly regal Mad Queen armchair.

In addition to the newly-added range of CH88 chairs, Carl Hansen & Son also unveiled the CH417 traytable, of Hans J. Wegner design,

as well as a colonial sofa & side table set of Ole Wanscher design. While all designs boast functionality true to the spirit of the Carl Hansen & Son brand, the CH417 traytable stands out as streamlined and functional as well as versatile. Equally eye-catching, Ole Wanscher's colonial sofa and side table set echo the delicate simplicity of days long past, coupled with a refined appeal reminiscent

ABOVE
Ole Wanscher's Colonial
Sofa & Side Table.

RIGHT & BELOW
Hans J. Wegner's
CH417 Traytable.



Compact, yet intricate, the Battery lamp boasts a faceted lampshade that plays on shadows when lit.



of 18th Century England. Alongside one another and in the midst of design enthusiasts, these were unveiled at the Space showroom at the Intermark Mall, Kuala Lumpur.

Beauty met functionality with Moooi and Kartell's lighting unveils at the Salone. Bertjan Pot's Heracleum Endless lights lit up the Moooi space, beautifully cloaking the area in a perpetual blossom of new branches that multiply by the metre. Each blossom is LED

powered, highlighting the importance of sustainable lighting that is presently predominant in the scene. Kartell's Battery lamp shade of Ferruccio Laviani design is equally breathtaking in gemstone colours. Compact, yet intricate, the Battery lamp boasts a faceted lampshade that plays on shadows when lit. Rechargeable via USB cable to last six hours, the Battery lamp is perfect for restaurants and home dinner parties. ●

ABOVE & BELOW
Kartell's Battery lamp
showcases a play on light.



FAN FAVOURITES

Sunny days are best spent in the company of good friends, an iced drink, and most importantly – especially given Malaysian weather forecasts, a fan to keep you cool. With the many types of fans available in the market, however, choosing one can seem a daunting task indeed. Luckily, we have a guide to go by, one that will help you find the fan of your dreams.



FAN, MEET SPACE

Ceiling fans are great space savers. From where they hang, they keep well out of the way of your daily life, unceasingly providing comfort in your home by keeping your space ventilated and fresh. As far as comparisons with air conditioning systems go, it's a no brainer: you just can't compare the two. The ceiling fan gives you great airflow in the house, minimising energy usage, but unlike air conditioning systems, do not affect room temperature. And while it is the irrefutable truth that air conditioning is required most days, a good ceiling fan can go a long way in keeping your household cool on its own.

Buying a ceiling fan is a huge investment, and one that requires a great deal of planning.

The importance of accurate measurements for your space cannot be overstated. Buy a fan that's too big and it won't fit. Buy one that's too small and it'll be insufficient to cool your space. The key to choosing the right fan for your space is this: the larger your space, the larger the fan you can afford to install.

In general, fans with blade lengths between 1.1m and 1.6m are sufficient to cool a space between 100sqf and 160sqf. Larger spaces that measure between 160sqf and 300sqf require fans with blade lengths spanning 1.4m to 1.5m. Position fans in the centre of the room to optimise air circulation, making sure they are 2.5m above the floor and at least 10 to 12 inches below the ceiling.



Consider installing two fans if your space is large enough. Make sure they are a safe distance apart for safety purposes, and also to encourage optimum airflow. As a general rule of thumb, you should position your ceiling fans so that each fan is twice as far apart from one another, as they are from the wall.

With five inset blades and a selection of three speeds, Panasonic's BAYU ceiling fan provides continuous airflow to ensure your home is kept comfortably cool all day long.



THREE, FOUR OR FIVE?

Ceiling fan blades. How many are too many, and how few are too few? Traditionally, ceiling fans have come with three, four, or five blades. The science behind it is simple: ceiling fans increase the airflow in a room by rotating their blades, thus cooling the body down. The greater the surface of each blade, the longer and broader the blades are, the more airflow is generated. However, larger blades also undergo more air resistance, which would then mean that the fan requires a stronger, more energy-consuming motor. The trick is finding the right balance between blade size and the number of blades required. ➤

The Rubine RCF-ONDULAR fan optimises airflow by way of three curved blades that help to reduce wind resistance.





Panasonic's ECONAVI 5 blades ceiling fan operates on DC motor technology, which saves up to 55% energy compared to AC motors.



GOING GREEN

Energy efficiency is among one of the most important points to note in technology these days. Ideally, a fan should cool you down, but not at the expense of excessive energy waste. Thankfully, many of today's fans come with integrated smart systems that are energy saving and efficient to boot. Panasonic's ECONAVI fan comes equipped with the ECONAVI Integrated Circuit, an intelligent microprocessor that gathers information from its surroundings every three minutes through a sensor. Using this information, the ECONAVI feature then automatically adjusts the fan to a speed that provides a comfortable flow of air throughout the room. This in turn reduces the wastage of energy, allowing you to save up to 64% more electricity.

MATERIAL MATTERS

While we are often too eager to judge a book by its cover – or in this case, judge a fan by its design and appearance, it's important to remember that that wood and steel weigh up differently. The heavier the material used to craft the blades of your fan, the higher its energy consumption will be. Research has shown that wooden blades produce the least airflow and noise, whilst steel blades produce the most airflow, as well as the most noise. You'll want to keep this in mind when selecting a fan to fit into your decor.



photo DARREN CHANG



The Alpha Axon 1 fan combines a 360-degree swirl motion with three short blades, minimising drag whilst optimising airflow. It is also available as the Axon 2 which incorporates two fans and a light.



KDK's K15Z5 range of energy-saving ceiling fans come in two models, with both long and short pipes to suit the height of your ceilings.



The Rubine RCF-LE800L-5BL comes attached with a 7W light, and has an energy efficiency rating of five stars from ST.



photo WONG WEI LIANG

LIGHT IT UP

Every room has one ceiling, and the choice every homeowner comes upon: a ceiling fan, or a hanging lamp? Some spaces are not large enough to accommodate both. There's really no need to choose, however; the rise of 2-in-1 ceiling fans has cemented the marriage of lighting and airflow, knotting both together in a clean, elegant fashion, whilst perpetuating functionality and efficiency.

CLEANING YOUR FAN

It really should go without saying that a clean fan is good for you and yours. A clean fan means that there are no dust mites sitting around, waiting to drift from your fan blades to your lungs. It's especially important in households susceptible to air-quality diseases such as asthma, allergies and sinuses.

Be sure your fan is switched off before you start to clean. Dust and wipe off fan blades semi-regularly. You can use a duster, a vacuum cleaner with an extendable pole, or a piece of wet cloth, with the help of a stepladder or ladder as required. During cleaning, be sure to not pull too hard upon your fan and its blades, as you could damage it. Be sure to dry your fan blades after wiping them down, as wet blades tend towards accumulating more dust. ●



Use an old sheet to cover any furniture directly beneath your fan while cleaning to collect debris as it falls. You can simply wash it when you're done, leaving your furniture untouched beneath.



SINCE 1909
JAPAN



KDK FANS (M) SDN BHD (568849-X)



SENSA センサ
with **DC motor technology**



K15Z5-REY
• 150cm/60"
long pipe (323mm)

sensa 5

- DC (Direct Current) Motor
- Temperature Sensor
- 1/f Yuragi Breeze Function
- Two pipe length variation
- 9 speed remote control with OFF and ON timer



K15Z5-QEY
• 150cm/60"
short pipe (245mm)

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Available on the
App Store



ANDROID APP ON
Google play

A STYLISH STATEMENT

The Milan Furniture Fair 2015 may have come and gone, but it's brought with it the glass, chrome, patterned and tinted lighting trends of the year.



A CUT ABOVE

Favoured for its translucency, state-of-the-art glass lightings can be unique when handcrafted. You can get authentic mouth-blown lamps in various shapes; they can also come in the form of beads in chandeliers. With the right cut in glass, one can throw a burst of prism-like colours and patterns on the walls.

1. Hang a miniature chandelier over your dining table, living room, or study room. The steel frame of the three-armed Kristaller Chandelier is draped with glass beads.

Available from Ikea.

2. Choose either white fiberglass or black carbon fiber. Vibia's Slim, of Jordi Vilardell design uses energy saving LED lights with a frosted diffuser on each tip. **Available from Lightcraft.**

3. Designer Lycke von Schantz brings a jewel-inspired table lamp to Ikea. Made of glass, the ÅRBY LED table lamp has unique patterns and swirls. It is portable, and can be opened from the top to be utilised as a jewellery box. The lamp serves as a good reminder for where you've placed your valuables, especially when it's lit up.

Available from Ikea.

4. The curvaceous black steel frame of the Örtöfta Chandelier, with its pieces of glass that hang at different levels creates a dramatic look that brings any ambience to life.

Available from Ikea.



STYLING TIPS

Glass lighting enables you to have pure light without colour tints or shadows cast by lamp shades. This element takes away the worry of matching your lamps with the colour scheme of your room.

Place glass lightings in a darker area of your room to highlight their beauty during the day – this does not apply to Chandeliers. For an industrialised look, place them at an area that is exposed to sunlight during the day. Installing an orange-tinged light bulb helps to reflect a cosier feel at night.

If a room is rich with monochrome colours or materials like leather, break the monotony by installing a glass lamp.

There is no limit to the amount of glass you can incorporate into a room.

POLYCARBONATE

If glass is not an option, use Polycarbonate lamps instead.

5. Transparency can be achieved with polycarbonate. The Hope lamp for example, is made from Fresnel lenses. They reflect a rainbow's worth of colours on the wall, just like glass. Hope is designed by Francisco Gomez Paz and Paolo Rizzatto for Luceplan.

Available from Lightcraft.



6. Made from rotation-molded transparent polycarbonate, Plass displays the craftsmanship that goes into glass-making. Plass is available in blue or grey.

Available from Lightcraft.



7. A Ferruccio Laviani design, the TAKE lamp for Kartell comes in the translucent colours of yellow, green, orange, red, blue, grey and crystal.

Available from Lightcraft. ➔



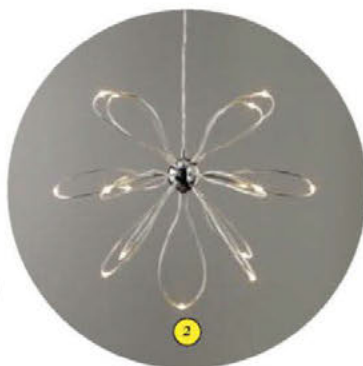


A CHROME FINISH

Gold, silver and bronze are colours that represent winners. But in a home, they reflect a strong metal finishing that brings a touch of sophistication and elegance to any room.

1. If you love the shine, but not the smooth texture chrome offers, opt for lighting made from brass. Try the duo floor lamp from **BoConcept**.

2. Use a mix of plastic and chrome. According to designer Sigga Heimis, the

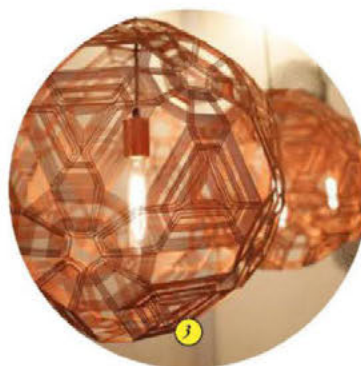


ONJÖ LED chandelier looks like a flying orbit, with fireflies in the middle. We love the chandelier's futuristic design. Made of ABS plastic, the chandelier is paired with a chrome-plated middle, making it a truly sophisticated piece.

Available from Ikea.

3. Behold a ball of light! The futuristic design of the copper Zatlite Pendant Lamp casts intricate patterns upon your walls when switched on.

Available from Lightcraft.



Chrome makes a bold statement, bringing a modern contemporary touch to your space. It also pairs well with leather.

STYLING TIPS

Chrome is an iconic symbol of modernity. Chrome products are usually sleek in design. Too much chrome can hurt the eyes, so be careful to not overdo it. With chrome lamps, you can opt to mix and match with various other accessories incorporating chrome detailing.

To make chrome stand out, place it in rooms with contrasting background colours. Opt for silver against black, or a darker hue of grey instead of silver against a light grey background.

Soften the look of chrome by placing it among lighter shades of neutral or subdued colours. You can also add a little bit brightness to accessories like cushions with chrome. Avoid using brighter shades of colours with chrome.

Scratches are obvious on chrome. It is advisable to place chrome products out of reach of children or pets. The alternative is to incorporate this element in the form of a pendant lamp. Remember to polish them once in a while to maintain that shine!

For starters, purchase lamps with chrome frames to learn how you can work the look into your home or else take up the challenge and go for gold!



PAPER AND WOOD

Incorporate these elements into your living area, kitchen or patio! The textured look of a paper lamp shade with its smooth wooden frames will definitely impart a cosy atmosphere to any contemporary-styled room.

1. The Cone floor lamp caters to not only one, but two people. If you enjoy reading, you may benefit from light coming at two different angles. This oak floor lamp is paired with a black metal base and shades.

Available from BoConcept.

2. Paper looks great paired with either steel or wood. Paper lamps like the DUDERÖ floor lamp produce soft mood lighting, which means you can use them in bedrooms as night lights, as well as in other rooms where strong harsh lighting is not required.

Available from Ikea.

3. The minimalist Outrigger floor lamp is shaped like a classy table lamp, and is held up by a two-legged, powder coated stand.

Available from BoConcept.



photography VERONICA TAY



STYLING TIPS

Paper lamps look good, especially in minimalistic rooms, but you don't want them to look "frail" when there are no solid structures to offer support. Opt for paper lamps with wooden stands or frames. This makes it easier for you to balance out the paper and wooden elements in a room.

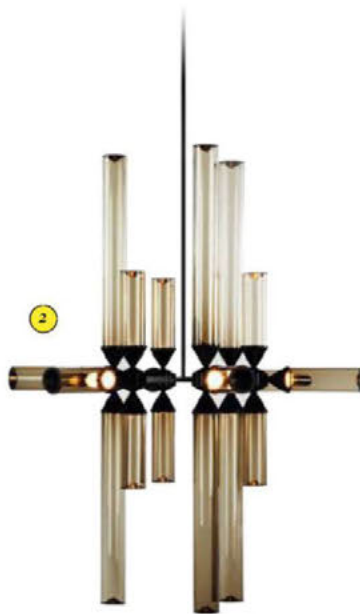
Dust particles will turn your paper lamps grey. Make sure you keep them clean by dusting the lamp shade regularly. Your guests will thank you for that.

White paper pendant lamps make a room look airy and spacious. They are commonly used in holiday homes. ●

FROM MILAN, WITH LOVE

Space Furniture carries renowned furnishing and lighting brands such as Kartell and Flos with the new additions of Bocci and Roll & Hill.

These are the latest lighting trends, straight from international lighting exhibition, EuroLuce 2015.



FUTURISTIC PENDANTS

1. The pulley system. A lengthy cord, brass counterweight and pulley system are paired with chrome or glass lighting shades. These come in various geometric forms, materials and colours. This Shape Up lamp is designed by Ladies & Gentlemen Studio for Roll & Hill.

2. Geometric-punk design. Castle by Jason Miller is inspired by the movements of a rook in a game of chess. Blackish smoke tones give it a vintage look.

3. Nature-inspired. These pieces come in the form of trees and seeds, perfectly showcasing the latest trend of the year.

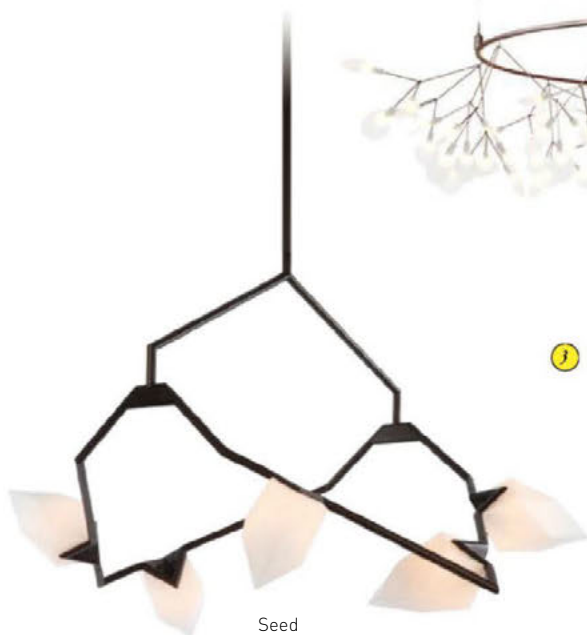
- Vancouver-based Bocci's 16 series designed by Omer Arbel

- Heracleum Small Big O by Bertjan Pot for Moooi

- Seed by Bec Brittain for Roll & Hill



Heracleum Small Big O



Seed

photos GWENAELE LEWIS



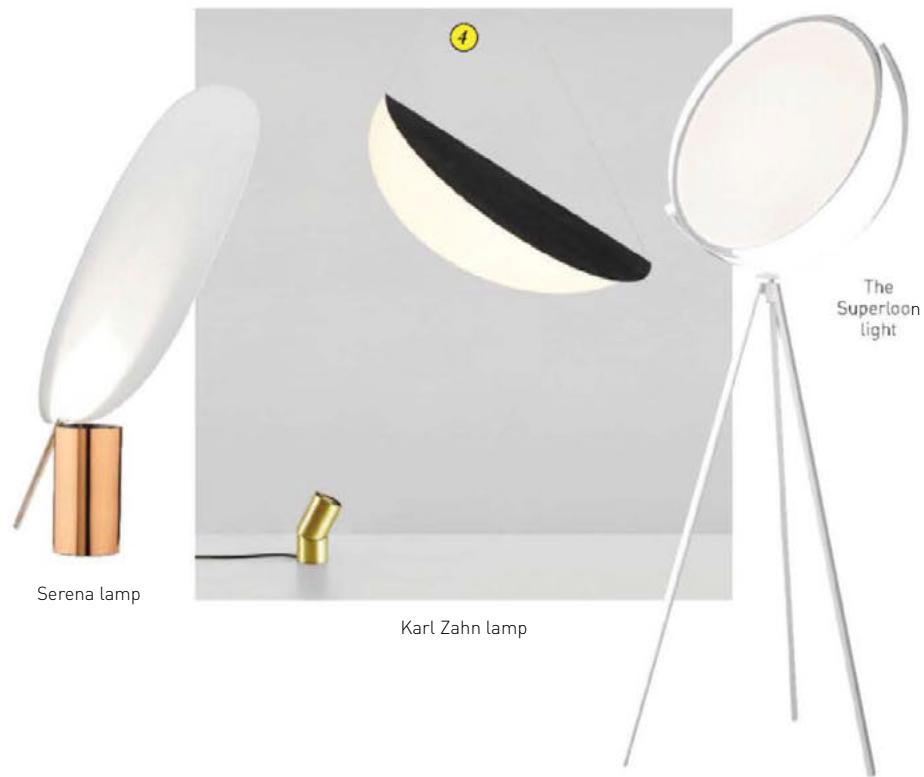
Bocci's 16 series

4. CLEVER ILLUSIONS

- Lightings don't have to be heavy. Patricia Urquiola proves this with her latest lighting design, Serena. Designed for Flos, the reflector of the feather-like table lamp is available in various finishes including wood.

- Bounce comes in two pieces, a light source and a folded aluminium shade. The shade diffuses light back towards its source. The piece is a Karl Zahn design, for Roll & Hill.

- The Superloon light is a rotatable flat disc that sits atop a tripod stand. An optical sensor on one of its stems allows you to adjust both intensity and colour temperature, as well as to have the light changed from ambient lighting, to reading lighting. The Superloon is designed by Jasper Morrison for Flos.



Serena lamp

Karl Zahn lamp

The Superloon light

5. SPHERES

- If only the planets looked as good as these. Tokujin Yoshioka's first lighting project for Kartell showcases his version of a Planet, which boasts a complex surface. There are two table lamps and a pendant lamp in this collection.

- Raimond Puts' design for Moooi looks as if it were a ball of energy encased within a layer of lights. However, the design is actually inspired by the principal of Tensegrity, or floating compression. Held up by a wooden stand, the Tensegrity floor lamp gives a star-like sparkle when switched on.

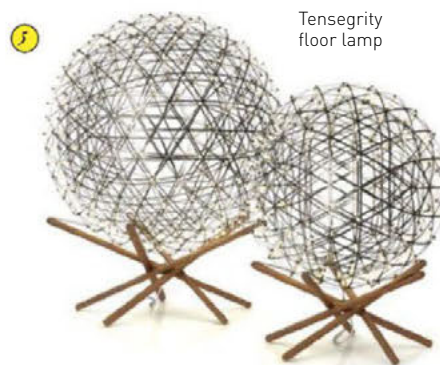
- When aluminium and glass collides, you get the Copycat lamp, a Michael Anastassiades design for Flos.



Planet lamp



Copycat lamp



Tensegrity floor lamp

6. COLOURED GLASS AND PLASTIC

- The TW003 pendant with a glass shade designed by Tapio Wirkkala for Artek.

- Ether collection by Philippe Starck for Flos. ●



photos MARK EGGIMANN

TW003 pendant

Ether collection

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SEE THE LIGHT

From tabletop lamps to pendants, this is your ultimate guide to lamps for the home!





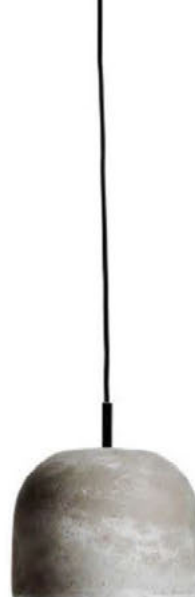
1. SÖDER pendant lamp, from Ikea
2. ÄMTEVIK lamp shades, from Ikea
3. Moooli Rabbit lamp, from Space
4. VÄRBY LED table lamp, from Ikea
5. SOLVINDEN LED solar-powered floor lamp, from Ikea
6. Lotus pendant lamp, from BoConcept
7. Space line pendant lamp, from BoConcept
8. Spring table lamp, from BoConcept
9. HK Living Lab pendant lamp in pool green, from Make Room [▶](#)



10



13



14



11



12



15

10. ÖRTOFTA chandelier, from Ikea
11. Sned table lamp, from BoConcept
12. Kartell Take table lamp, from Space
13. Moooi Juuyo Peach Flowers pendant lamp, from Space
14. Geometry pendant lamp, from BoConcept
15. VÄRBY LED table lamp, from Ikea
16. Moooi mask lamps, from Space
17. SÖDER pendant lamp, from Ikea
18. String LED pendant lamp, from BoConcept
19. NYFORS table lamp, from Ikea
20. JANSJÖ LED work lamp, from Ikea ▶





21



24



23



22



23



- 21. Moooi Bell lamp, from Space
- 22. SÅNGEN table lamp, from Ikea
- 23. Kartell Light Air lamp, from Space
- 24. Kartell Bloom pendant lamp, from Lightcraft
- 25. Vibia Slim hanging lamps, from Lightcraft
- 26. Pine cone table lamp, from BoConcept
- 27. Chouchin pendant lamps, from Lightcraft
- 28. Kartell Cindy table lamp, from Space ●

FORM & FUNCTION – LIGHTING 101

We take you on a step by step journey to mastering
the art of lighting your home.



We cannot live without light. It's simple - when it is dark, we turn the lights on. However, there is more to lighting your home than you think. Different lighting systems will impact a space differently, and if you master them, you will master setting the mood and ambiance of your home.

The first object that usually comes to mind when it comes to lighting is the light bulb. Ordinary light bulbs found in electric light systems are simple. A coiled tungsten filament within a glass bulb will illuminate after an electric current is passed through it. There is nothing simpler than that. But what makes such a simple thing so indispensable in our lives?



HISTORY

Contrary to popular belief, Thomas Edison was not the man who invented the light bulb. In 1802, Humphry Davy created the first light bulb by passing the current of what was then the most powerful electrical battery in the world through a platinum filament. The result was a dim light that did not last due to the high melting point of platinum which made it difficult to power with electricity. Its high cost also meant it would be too expensive to produce. However, the experiment served as a stepping stone for other improvements over the next century.

Sir Joseph Swan received a British Patent for an improved carbon-filament light bulb in 1880 and his home was the first ever in

the world to be illuminated with light bulbs. At around the same time, Thomas Edison and his team made the discovery that a carbonised bamboo filament was able to last 1200 hours, and their light bulb was first used on a ship, the Columbia. Edison's employee, Lewis Latimer would then improve the heat-treating of the carbon filaments, moulding them into interesting shapes.

December 1904 saw the birth of a Hungarian patent for a tungsten filament light bulb, created by Sándor Just and Franjo Hanaman. The use of tungsten instead of carbon made the light bulb shine brighter, and when the bulbs were filled with the inert gas argon instead of being vacuum-sealed, their luminosity increased manifold.

TYPES OF LIGHT BULBS

These are the four most common types of light bulbs:

1. INCANDESCENT

The first light bulbs, these were first commercialised in the 1920s, and served many purposes until recent years. They are now often replaced by other kinds of light bulbs, as they are deemed inefficient for releasing more heat than light.

2. HALOGEN

These are essentially incandescent light bulbs injected with a small amount of halogen, which creates a chemical reaction that causes the evaporated tungsten to be re-deposited back into the filament, thus increasing the lifespan of the lamp.

3. FLUORESCENT

These are tubes of mercury vapour gas that produces short-wave ultraviolet light, which

causes the phosphor coating within the tube to glow. These last 20 times longer than incandescent lights and generate 22% more light. They must be disposed of properly because of the mercury in them.

4. LED

LED light bulbs do not consist of just a single LED unit. In fact, several LEDs are used to form an LED light bulb. They are indeed more expensive than traditional incandescent light bulbs, but they are more efficient and require little maintenance. They are quickly replacing other modes of lighting due to their efficiency.

OPPOSITE PAGE
A warm light for the living room to help you unwind. Photo Giuseppe Brancato for VLUZ

LEFT
The light bulb is the foundation of home lighting. Photo VluZ ➤

WARM OR COOL?

Simply put, colour temperature indicates how warm or how cool your lighting will appear. Warm lighting has a yellower hue, while cool lighting veers towards blue.

Colour temperature is measured in Kelvin (K). The flame of a matchstick will emit a temperature of 1,700K while the daylight sky emits about 27,000K. Essentially, warm or reddish-yellow light has a lower colour temperature reading, while a cooler or bluer light will have a higher colour temperature reading.

Light bulbs that are marketed for home use range between 3,000K and 5,000K, where the former is an indicator of warm light while latter indicates cool light.

It is important to grasp this concept well when selecting the perfect lighting for your home, as the colour temperature of a room will ultimately affect its mood and ambience. Warm lights will bring out the colour of furnishings in the room. If you have beautiful timbers that you want to show off, or if you want to project a cosy ambience, choose light bulbs rated at 3,000K. On the other hand, cooler lights are used when



Use overhead lighting for the dining room.
Photography Jasper Yu

it is imperative that productive work is done in the room.

There are no hard and fast rules that dictate you should use only cool lights for work areas, or warm lights for living areas. What you need to think about is what effect you want your lighting to have in the room.

However, if you are undecided, you can always opt to mix and match. This is particularly true if you have an open floor plan and lack particular sections. Just use warm light bulbs in spaces where you want to relax and keep cool lights in areas where you know you'll be working.

Just use warm light bulbs in spaces where you want to relax and keep cool lights in areas where you know you'll be working.



TOP
Use concealed lighting if space is a luxury.
Photo J & J Chester

LEFT
Don't be afraid to show your quirky side.
Photo J&J Chester

LIGHTING YOUR HOME

How do you want to light your home? Different rooms have different focal points as well as functions, so the task at hand is to go room by room to determine what you truly need, with lighting.

1. LIVING ROOM

The living room is the centre of your home, the gravitational core that pulls everything together. Since the living room is the central living space of your home, you will most likely have many things to show off there, and have much to illuminate. Select three corners in the living room to use as focal points and light those corners with a mixture of lights that shine upwards (table and floor lamps) and downwards (ceiling lights or pendant lights).

When space is a luxury, it would be advisable to use concealed lighting. When

lights are concealed, they provide illumination that make interesting features of the area stand out, and are neither harsh nor glaring.

2. DINING ROOM

Let us all visualise the common components of a dining room. There will be a dining table, several dining chairs and little else. With this in mind, it would be wise to say that you will need a light that shines downwards. Chandeliers and pendant lights fit the bill very well.

However, when selecting these lights, it is of utmost importance that you keep proportions in mind. If you have a wide dining room with high ceilings, by all means, invest in that beautiful chandelier you've been eyeing. But if your dining room is smaller, it would be wise to use a series of pendant lights instead. ▀



LEFT
Unobstructive pendant lights that are not too harsh are perfect for the home office. Photo BoConcept

BOTTOM RIGHT
If you like to read before bed, have lights at either side of your bed. Photo J & J Chester

3. HOME OFFICE

Common wisdom dictates that home offices should be as brightly lit as conventional offices. After all, here is where a lot of productive work takes place, particularly if you work mainly from home. As a matter of fact, fluorescent lamps that are overly bright can easily trigger problems like eye-strain and migraines. Avoid all that unpleasantness and increase productivity by utilising ambient lights or softer lighting options instead.

Using ambient lighting for the home office is easy. Simply place a warm, soft light behind your computer screen. It will not only correct the glare from the screen, but also provide ample light so you can work in ease. If ambient lighting is not an option for you, you can also try some form of overhead lighting

4. BEDROOM

Special care must go into the task of lighting the bedroom. Bright, artificial lights are a no-go in this area, as they impede on our ability to rest and wind down. If you like to read before bed, bedside lamps with soft lampshades will work best for you. The rule of thumb is to avoid actually lighting the area surrounding the bed. If your dressing area is also in your bedroom, focus all the lighting in that area instead.

NATURAL LIGHT

Natural light is important. It effectively kills bacteria that thrive in dark, damp conditions, and also gives a space the feeling of airiness and freedom. Too much artificial light would make the denizens of a space feel cloistered and trapped by their surroundings. On the other hand, sufficient natural light will make you feel fresh and light, which has a very good therapeutic effect on people who are stressed out.

There are ways to increase the amount of natural light that gets into your home without completely remodelling to include floor to ceiling windows. The easiest thing to do is to use curtains of lighter textures that allow more light in. Invest in

curtains that are light enough to ensure that ample sunlight enters the home, and are yet dense enough to give you the privacy you need.

You can also allow more light in by ensuring that there are no obstructions. Whether it is a large lawn chair that is blocking a window or a shrub that's grown too tall, simply move them out of your way and you'll have lots of light.

Skylights are a magnificent way to ensure that more natural light enters your home. These are exceptionally handy for when you cannot change your windows to allow more light in. Definitely give these a try if you live in an area where there is lots of sunlight throughout the day.



Having lots of natural light will eliminate the use of electric lights during the day.
Photography Wong Wei Liang



SOME EXTRA TIPS

You can never go wrong with a few extra precautions. Here are some additional hints and tricks so you don't get too lost in the quest of lighting your home.

1. USE DIMMER SWITCHES

Dimmer switches are important because they let you control the intensity of your lighting. These will also help you to save on electricity in the long run because you can vary the amount of light needed, so your lights aren't running at full power all the time.

2. SHADOWS DO EXIST!

When light is blocked, shadows are cast. This is why it is imperative to be absolutely clear where you want to put your lights. No matter where you are in the house, shadows are cast when the body is directly beneath overhead lighting. To combat this, remember to vary the kind of lighting you install in each room.

3. WORK WITH COLOUR

If your room is painted with a coat of dark paint, it will look dark no matter how much lighting you use. The key is to maintain a balance between the depth of the paint and the amount of light you can have. If you like to use dark colours, why not paint only one side of the wall to make it a feature wall?

4. DON'T BE AFRAID TO EXPERIMENT.

Home lighting does not need to be formal or elegant. Your home is your personal space, so you should always let your personality shine through. Show off your quirky lighting proudly. ●

CHANDELIERS

The first chandeliers were simply candle holders that corresponded to their namesake in French: Chandelle. Prior to the rise of iron and brass, chandeliers were made of wood. In the 1800's, Austrian glass cutter Daniel Swarovski introduced a better method for cutting leaded glass or crystals, further expanding the possibilities of chandelier design. These distinctive lights have graced the homes of the wealthy for centuries, and continue to do so in contemporary design today.



ATENEA

The Atenea chandelier is a piece of artwork that adds a little bit of mystery and drama to contemporary style rooms. Made from hand-cut coloured crystals, the Atenea chandelier from the Iris Cristal Bohemia Contemporary collection is available in various sizes and colours. The design is also available in wall and floor lighting versions.

Available from Lightcraft.





MILENIUM

The grand Milenium adopts the design of a traditional chandelier with three tiers. The curvaceous crystal candelabra is embellished with individual light bulbs. Available in different widths, this luxurious piece is part of the Iris Cristal Bohemia Novelties collection.

Available from Lightcraft.



PAPER CHANDELIER

Designed by Studio Job for Moooi, the Paper chandelier serves as a reminder of our first days as crafty pre-schoolers. As a contemporary piece, it nonetheless takes the form of a classic chandelier, highly ornamented with intricate craftsmanship.

Available from Space Furniture.



DEAR INGO

The Dear Ingo chandelier, designed by Ron Gilad for Moooi makes a grand impression of contemporary art. The combination of many desk lamps, each with adjustable arms, makes it possible for you to shine light at the right angle. The chandelier pays homage to German lighting designer, Ingo Maurer.

Available from Space Furniture. ➤

▽ ———
**STOCKHOLM
 CHANDELIER**

The Stockholm chandelier bears spokes that make it look like a burst of translucent stars. When switched on, the centre of the chandelier glows with light.

Available from Ikea.



△ ———
**FUTUNA
 CHANDELIER**

The embodiment of simplicity and elegance, the Futuna chandelier takes the form of a pendant lamp, but really, it is a chandelier made up of eight pendants.

Available from BoConcept.

▷ ———
COBRA

The Cobra chandelier from the Iris Cristal Bohemia Novelties collection immortalises the graceful demeanour of the reptile in clear or honey brown crystal.

Available from Lightcraft.





WENDY

From the Iris Cristal Bohemia Contemporary collection, the Wendy chandelier looks as if it were inspired by elegant forms of cursive writing. Wide rather than long, the Wendy chandelier can carry either two, eight or ten bulb holders.

Available from Lightcraft.



SOROLLA

The Sorolla chandelier from the Iris Cristal Bohemia Luxus collection is both traditional and contemporary in design, bearing miniature lamps that stand in place of candles.

Available from Lightcraft.



ALL AGLOW GRAND CHANDELIER

Of white glass, scalloped cups on saucers sit upon the brass arms of the All Aglow Grand Chandelier, adding a feminine touch to the piece. The lamp is also available in Smoky Amethyst.

Available from Barbara Barry.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CLEANING CHANDELIERS

1. Take some photographs of the chandelier, both as a whole and close up, before you disassemble it for a thorough clean. These will serve as references when you are reassembling it. Be sure to lay out thick blankets or towels on the floor to prevent pieces from shattering if dropped.
2. Space each disassembled section out. Each section of the chandelier should be given its respective space. Number them as you go. A systematic approach prevents confusion and makes reassembling easier.
3. Use a dry cloth to remove dust, as a wet cloth may leave water stains. Using vinegar will enhance the shine of prisms. Wear gloves while you clean to avoid leaving fingerprints.



Safety comes first. Do not remove chandeliers without turning off the electricity. ●

ITALY'S FINEST

Hailed from different parts of Italy, their innovative designs caught our attention.

MATTEO CIBIC

DESIGNER MATTEO CIBIC BELIEVES BEING CURIOUS AND ASKING QUESTIONS IS PART OF HIS JOB. THE DESIGNER, WHO HAILS FROM PARMA, CREDITS HIS CURIOSITY WITH MAKING HIS DREAMS OF BEING A DESIGNER COME TRUE.

Matteo's humble beginnings as a designer include working for renowned architecture and interior design studios and at the same time, selling auto and ceramic products. The designer, who studied art, architecture and design in Venice, Milan and London was 24 when he decided to establish his own studio, followed by a menswear fashion company called 10A.

Inspired by his travels, visits to art exhibitions, museums and old buildings, the real world and his face-to-face interactions with people, Matteo reveals he does not rely on the internet in his research. Growing up in the countryside near Venice, Matteo had stayed with his uncle Aldo, who was also a designer, during summer vacation. At the studio, he was exposed to his uncle's works.

"I remember all these foreign designers and artists passing through the doors of the studio. There were big openings and fantastic prototypes!" Matteo exclaims. This year, the nephew and his uncle went on to design the Table Joy collection for Paola C., a showroom displaying Italian tableware. Their designs were on display at the Milan Design Week 2015.

Perhaps that is how Matteo ended up producing his unique ceramic works: intriguing

forms and the shapes of animal hybrids that are reflected in his Marino & Pescado collection. Who would think up a standing fish, or a cow in a fish's body? These were designed for a Superego Editions project which aimed to offer limited edition collections of ceramic and plexiglass works. "I design fun luxury objects with strange or hidden functions," Matteo says mischievously.

Authenticity runs deep in his creations. The Domsai ceramics designed and made for Bosaceramiche are hand casted, while the glass is specially mouth blown. When asked what

a good design is, the designer answers, "A design that makes you happy. A design should be timeless and long-lasting."

Matteo is also an art director of Cioccolato Milanese and Gelato Milanese chocolate companies. He is currently designing a new collection of furniture for an Indian luxury brand, Scarlet Splendour and new tableware for Italian Paola C. In addition to that, he is also designing a perfume store and a new food project to be presented next year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.MATTEOCIBICSTUDIO.COM



photos DAVIDE GALLIZIO

BOTTOM
Marino & Pescado collection

BOTTOM RIGHT
The collaborative effort between Matteo and his uncle, Aldo Cibic resulted in TABLEJOY. It is designed for Paola C.



photos MATTEO CIBIC

MATHERY STUDIO

TWO DESIGNERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS FIND COMMON GROUND IN PRODUCT DESIGN AND SET UP A BUSINESS TOGETHER.

Matteo Sangalli and Erika Zorzi grew up in North Italy, and first met at the New Academy of Fine Arts in Milan. Armed with bachelor's degrees and a shared interest in making their creativity work, they worked on their own business together for a year before setting sail for Australia and settling in Melbourne. Two years later, they returned to Italy to set up their design firm, Matherly Studio.

"The name is a fusion of our names, 'MAT' for Matteo and 'ERY' for Erika, with an H in between," says Erika.

Matteo and Erika's designs are influenced by their instincts and interests, everything that surrounds them as well as their experiences and observations of details. Their Fruit Wares Collection, for example, is based on their experiences as fruit pickers in Australia. "Fruit Wares is a reflection of the aesthetics of the fruit skin, a natural material that we decided

to decontextualise for better evaluation. It turns the exterior into substance, transforming the fruit peel's short term function into a long life one," says Matteo.

To both designers, a good product design is self-explanatory. "We want people to be able to tell stories and be conscious of what they are using. Our projects are dedicated to the final consumer, but also to ourselves," Erika says.

Their current projects include Art to Art and the DESIGN Week 2015-2016 in Hangzhou, China. They are also launching a collection of patterns to be applied on PrintAllOverMe (USA) swimsuits. For the moment, they are looking to focus more on art direction and set design, in fashion, as well as events. The duo is thinking of moving to New York.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT WWW.MATHERY.IT



photo REUBEN GATES

LEFT TO RIGHT
The Con-Vivio
tablecloth means
banquet, Expect a
burst of streamers
when one sits
on Josie. ▶



CARLO CONTIN

AFTER YEARS OF WORKING AS AN ENTREPRENEUR IN A SMALL, FAMILY-OWNED HANDICRAFT FACTORY, CARLO CONTIN WENT SOLO BY FOUNDING HIS OWN STUDIO IN 1998 AND PARTICIPATING IN THE SALONE SATELLITE EXHIBITION A YEAR LATER.

When he was a child, Carlo observed and learned from his father, an excellent craftsman who specialised in wood. This is reflected in Carlo's works, including his renowned limited edition Avvitamenti prototype collection which comprises pieces of furniture with stands in the form of screw threads. It is also visible in the smooth ash frame of the hand-made NINNA chair, designed for French furniture company, Adentro.

"I believe in designing useful products for everyone," says Carlo who emphasises honesty. If designers neglect the quality of

a product throughout the stages of its design, it may change the public's perspective on a product design which should not be all about aesthetics alone.

Carlo observes the great changes in Italy's design industry and notes that they are due to economic and generational factors. "I hope that the Italian industry is able to preserve its uniqueness," says Carlo who, on occasion, meets his designer friends to talk about work.

Although he is known for his work with wood, Carlo, who is involved in interior

architecture, has also explored with materials such as glass to create pieces such as the Mediterraneo and Passion glassworks. Using aluminium and steel, he created the Piove umbrella stands, and a Duo umbrella holder, both for Mogg.

Aside from Mogg, the established designer has also collaborated with Coop, Cappellini, Guzzini, Fambuena, Le Fablier, Legnoart, Meritalia, MoMA and Sphaus.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.CARLOCONTIN.IT

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
Carlo with his Mediterraneo prototype, Piove for MOGG, NINNA armchair and small table.



SARA FERRARI

SARA FERRARI'S CURIOSITY IS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH! THE HUMOROUS, FUN-LOVING AND BRUTALLY HONEST PRODUCT DESIGNER BUSIES HERSELF AS A "CUPID" WHO MAKES PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE WITH HER DESIGNS, ALL OF WHICH HOLD INDIVIDUAL STORIES.

Her story, however, began unhappily. An accountant who quit her job to study industrial design at the behest of her friend Paola, Sara was born in a North Italian province called Brescia. It is located in the centre of the third largest industrial area in Italy.

Despite having an uncle who worked in the R&D office of Flos, Sara knew little about the design industry. "I did not realise what Brescia offered in terms of design. At the time, I could not see designing as a job. I had no idea what it meant to be one," Sara says.

The designer spent four and a half years in London as an intern and a freelancer for several design practices before starting the Sara Ferrari Design brand in 2009. She has since moved back to Italy, travelling to the Netherlands for her research project on Design and Emotions in 2013 where she stayed for 18 months teaching at the Technical University of Delft.

"The difference in the design approach is quite significant.

Emphasis in Italy is placed on beauty and craftsmanship while in Northern Europe, the focus is on conceptual design and the understanding of a user," says Sara, who firmly believes in combining both in her designs.

Her works include practical everyday household items to elegant lamps. Mr. Piggy from the Darker Shades of Joy series for example, requires a certain level

of interaction from users. It falls over and shatters when it is filled. Its fragments can be used as chalk for writing on blackboards.

Currently residing in Milan, award-winning designer Sara intends to explore parts of the city she has never been to. ●

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.SARAFERRARIDESIGN.COM




RIGHT & BOTTOM
Save more and be rewarded by Mr Piggy which loses its balance when full. It is a research project conducted by Sara Ferrari and Steven Fokkinga from TU Delft



photo SARA FERRARI



The rich earthy hues of the cocoa-coloured PMP armchairs and tall Paunchy vase give the sunlit living area a warm and welcoming feel. Bright accents in the form of whimsical blue apple artworks and cheerfully hued cushions animate the room.



A PLACE IN PARIS

Views of the famed city surround this confidently chic home, which is awash with bespoke pieces, plush furnishings and a decided dose of the designer's innate French flair.



The elegant dining area takes full advantage of the view of the Seine, a design theme that was crucial to Stephanie's design. Marble-powdered panelling separates the space from the semi-open kitchen.





LEFT
A suite of handle-less Siematic kitchen cupboards and an accompanying island unit in dusky-grey glossy plywood give the kitchen an industrial chic vibe. A pair of golden Bull & Stein decorative apples is a glamorous touch to the dark marble countertop.

FAR LEFT
The dining table, with its sleek varnished oak top and large white stone legs, was custom-made by Stephanie to suit the space and paired with fabric Dan-Form chairs. An Eichholtz metal bench provides lounging space nearby.

Situated in the heart of Paris near Avenue Montaigne, this stunning apartment came with enviable views of the river Seine and the Eiffel Tower, which designer Stephanie Coutas embraced to maximum effect in a blend of trendy Parisian style and practical panache.

As it was not the Spanish owners' main home but their pied a terre in Paris, it was important that the apartment was not only cosy, but also befitting of a glamorous holiday home. Thankfully, "they feel like they're living in a hotel on Avenue Georges V," says Stephanie with pride.

Framing the views of Paris' iconic sights, the living room is subtly divided into a larger space for lounging and an armchair area for resting one's feet after a spot of shopping on Avenue Montaigne. The interplay of warm colours and cool tones channel easy intimacy amid cool modernity, that is emblematic of Stephanie's distinct style.

The large entrance hall – which was once dark and uninviting – was transformed into a sumptuous entry area complete with sleek mirrors and luxe leather panelling, while the open kitchen and adjoining dining space were carefully dressed in a continuation of the home's crisply elegant allure. A perfect picture of Parisian flair infused with modern-day functionality.



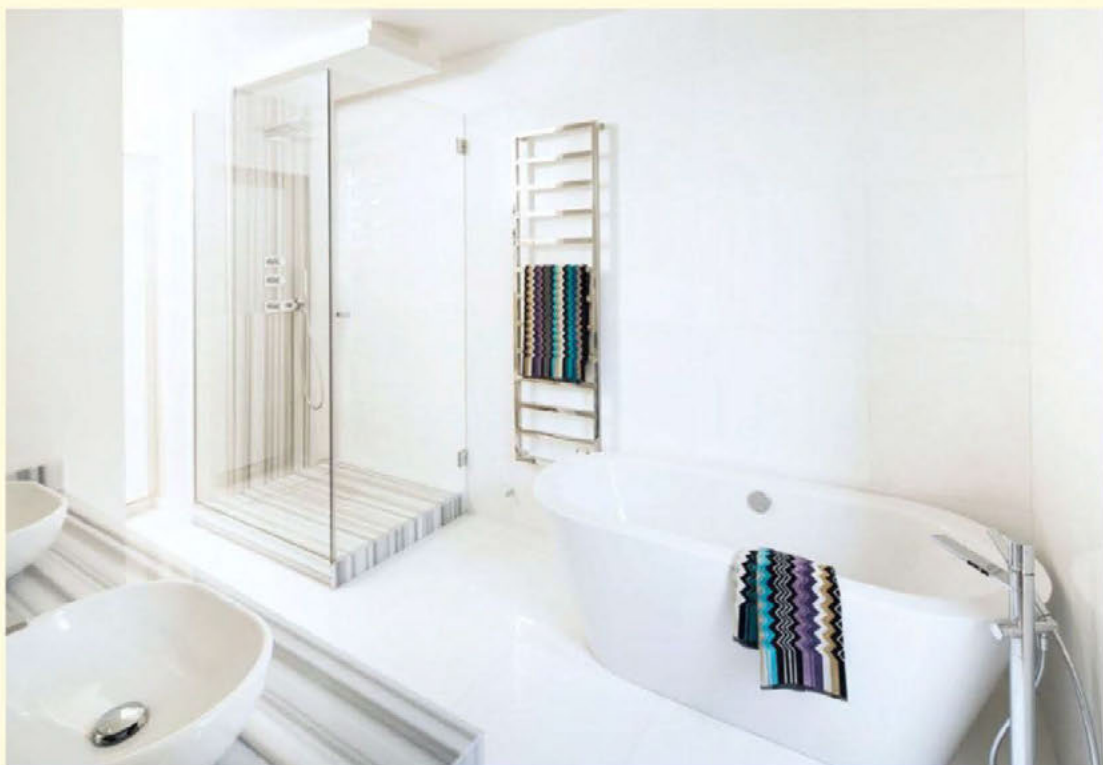
ABOVE
A wide door frame announces entry into the living area, which faces more views of the Seine. In winter, the family sits back and enjoys the warmth from the modern fireplace. The wall is illuminated with a Rosy mirror, designed by Doriana and Massimiliano Fuksas for Fiam Italia, that features a unique 3-D curved frame.



ABOVE RIGHT
The bedroom showcases a symphony of perfectly matched colours. A geometric-style beige wall panel designed by Christophe Fey forms a quiet backdrop to the blend of greys, golds and blacks in the artwork by Bruno Collin and the luxe bedding. A fluffy Pöls Potten stool adds a touch of whimsy.



RIGHT
The striking white-and-brown striped marble countertop, shower wall and floor take centre stage in this bathroom, which has been deliberately left bare. A shiny towel radiator sits within easy reach of both the shower stall and bathtub. ●







A CURIOUS COMBINATION

Fascinating objects from all over the globe enhance every corner of this beautiful house, fusing its colonial charm with its occupant's engaging personality.

W H O

A bachelor
in his 40s

H O M E

Two-storey black-
and-white colonial
terrace house

S I Z E

1,500sqf

LEFT

To take full advantage of the abundance of light this home receives, it was essential that the original frosted glass windows were changed to clear ones. The knitted doll of fashion designer John Galliano (on the shelf) was bought in Bali. ▶



Working in the tourism industry definitely has its perks, and Carsten Lima is enjoying them. Leaving his native Denmark 26 years ago, he has lived all over the world. But home now is Singapore, where the 45-year-old Asia-Pacific director at Design Hotels has been based since 2013.

Previously living in a rented condominium unit, Carsten yearned for a change. And his new address couldn't be more different – he now rents a black-and-white colonial terrace house situated in an idyllic residential neighbourhood that feels like a world away from the city.

The home's almost all-white interior is filled with unique finds that come from all over the globe, and whether it's a collection of video tapes stashed in an old sink cabinet that's repurposed as a side table, rolls of salvaged school charts from Germany or a classic shoe-polish stand from Turkey, the good-natured Dane has a story to tell about every one of them!





LEFT

The dining room, featuring a table and chairs from Habitat, is bright and airy, due to the copious amount of sunlight reflecting off its white walls and floor.

(OPPOSITE) TOP

"I've always embraced travel, culture and languages," says Carsten, who works for the design-focused hospitality service, Design Hotels.

BELOW

An arabesque screen, part of the home's original design, zones the ground-floor space while still allowing visual connectivity between the entranceway and the living room.

What drew you to this neighbourhood?

I heard about Katong from a colleague who lives in the east, and she was always raving about the lifestyle here. Then, Nathan (Yong, co-founder of Grafunkt) introduced me to this neighbourhood, and I really liked its eclecticism and multiculturalism. I also wanted to get away from the business district and the inner city; the overall tranquillity and atmosphere here suits me well. People seem to be more at ease with each other here.

Why this particular house?

I like the natural lighting in here – it's phenomenal. But first, I had to change the frosted glass in the windows to clear glass. Also, I like the width of the house; I can actually swirl around! There's nothing cramped about it.

In addition, the various spaces within the house are framed very well from one space to another. White and black are the best colours to play with, too! ▶





LEFT
Some of Carsten's favourite books, ornaments and souvenirs are placed on a shelf from Grafunkt, which was co-founded by his neighbour, Nathan Yong. The coffee tables are also from the same shop, as are a few other pieces in the house.

Where did you get your furnishings and decor?

I have been collecting many different objects and curiosities from all over the world since I left Denmark in 1989. I take all of them with me when I move across borders. Some are from a long time ago and others are more recent. As I've always worked in tourism, I've lived in many places, primarily London, Paris and Barcelona – but also Turkey, Tunisia, Greece and Malaysia.

How do you display your collection in the different spaces you've lived in?

I think my pieces complement each other in completely different ways, as long as I play around with them to achieve different effects. When my friends visit, they always say: "This looks so much better here than before!"

Describe how your home has been decorated.

It's a curious mismatch of sentimental objects. I like the idea of my house being looked at as a cabinet of curiosities. And since I decided not to have curtains, I get a lot of curious passers-by looking in!

As these things are from different periods of my life and from various countries, it makes my home look like a showroom of my life. It looks a bit random, but it works. ▶



You seem to really like old things.

Yes, and I take very good care of my things, because preservation is extremely important to me. I think there's a certain value to old things. While I don't have the eagerness to find out the complete history of an object, knowing that there's a story behind it is interesting to me.

Sometimes, when my things break in transit and I can't keep them anymore, it's really sad and it takes a little while to get over them.

Tell me about some of your pieces.

I bought this pair of wooden armchairs (in the living room) at Portobello Market in London in the 1990s. They're still in their original condition. I thought about reupholstering them, but then they would lose their vintage feel. The wooden drawer cabinet (in a bedroom on the second floor) that belonged to my grandmother is broken, but my life is in there. In it are books from university, agendas I keep, my first camera, some hats, travel essentials, old-fashioned sunglasses and more. The cart (in the dining room) is from Bangkok and was used by street peddlers and, now, I use it as a display cabinet for items that mark milestones in my life.

Has seeing so many well-designed hotels all over the world influenced your own decorating style?

I get inspired, but it hasn't influenced me as such. I meet many people who dictate trends, such as hotel owners, architects and designers, so I do pick things up from them. But it's like choosing ingredients to make your own pizza – I still have my own sense of style, and definitely a Danish touch.



So what makes a place a home, as compared to a hotel?

A hotel room has to be comfortable and functional, but a home can be a lot more "difficult" to live in. You pay for service at a hotel, but I don't have to service anybody here! A home should be carefree. People often ask if they should take off their shoes before entering, but I let them decide. I want people to be able to shuffle things around, to be casual and relaxed. ●

LEFT & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT
Carsten's bedroom is quiet, serene and understatedly stylish with just the basic essentials, and old and new furniture.

OPPOSITE, FROM FAR LEFT
A street peddler's cart from Bangkok sits in a corner of the dining room, and functions as a display cabinet for objects significant in Carsten's life, including a pair of dancing shoes from his years growing up in Denmark.

Along the upstairs hallway are a wall-hung kimono, a rosary from a gothic market in Barcelona and, on the floor, a vintage Turkish shoe-polish kit.

A framed botanical painting from Taylor B is among the many art and decor objects in the home, which reflect the homeowner's eclectic taste in design.

SIMPLE ROMANCE

A shabby-chic aesthetic leads the mishmash of styles present in this home, which comes across as delightfully charming rather than disconnected.

WHO

A couple and their
twin toddlers

HOME

Two-bedroom
condominium unit

SIZE

1,200sqf



Despite its pale palette of white walls and light wood floors, this two-bedroom residence doesn't look at all spartan. Homeowner Lena Tambunan, who lives here with her husband and two children, says that she always aims for simplicity in design.

What gives this apartment a homey appeal is a melange of shabby chic, vintage- and cottage-style furnishings, which are juxtaposed with modern elements and clean lines. "There's a romance to it," she says of the worn-in look, illustrated by the distressed wood dining table and statement mirror in the dining area. ▶

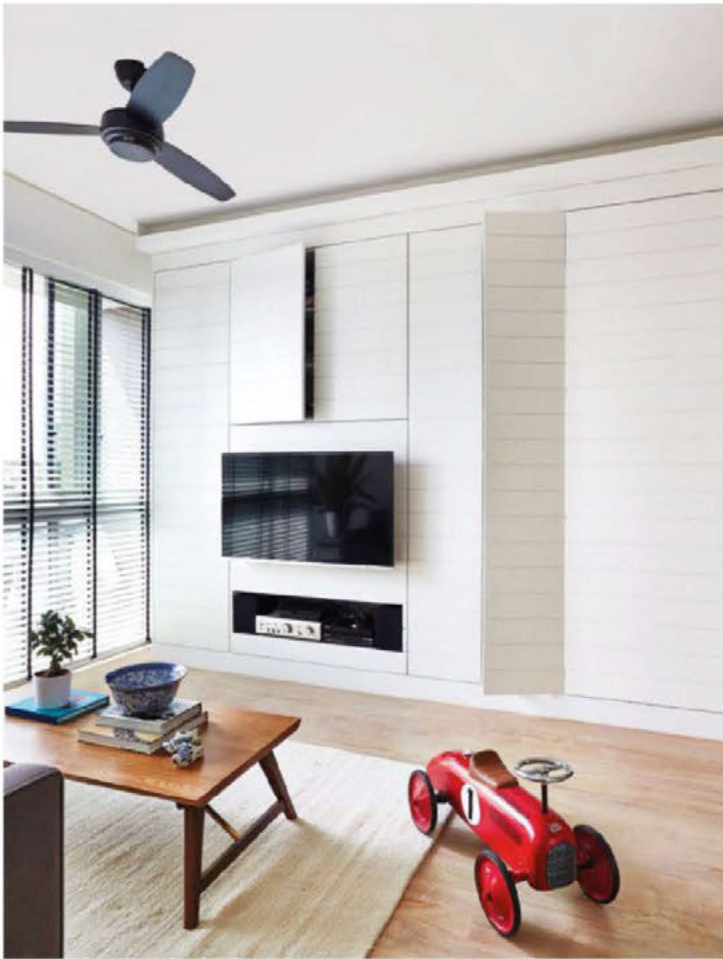


TOP
One of the most prominent items in Lena's home is a vintage-style two-wheeler, which her bicycle-obsessed husband built for her two years ago.

RIGHT
The shabby-chic design of the dining table and benches brings a casual, laid-back vibe into the home.

OPPOSITE
Before stepping into the home proper, guests are greeted by Peranakan-inspired floor tiles in the foyer.





Lena, who designed the place herself, bought most of the furniture abroad while shopping for her online homeware boutique, The Vintage Parlour. As she keeps her shop's inventory at home, she needed extra storage space. The solution came in the form of a full-height storage cabinet-cum-TV console, built by her contractor from Dreamvision.

Another bespoke furniture piece that her contractor created was the children's wooden loft bed – the highlight of the home – inspired by a tree house from an Enid Blyton book.

"Why buy a bed from Ikea when you can build a tree house?" exclaims Lena, gushing over the rustic wonderland. ▶





ABOVE
Lena went with a creamy tone for one of the living room walls to make the interiors seem less "flat".

(OPPOSITE) TOP
Despite its large size, the built-in storage cabinet has a neat profile and a clean white finish that creates the illusion of more space.

BOTTOM, LEFT
A refreshing touch of greenery imbues the muted living room with life and colour.

BOTTOM, RIGHT
Lena tossed the idea of conventional kitchen cabinets and designed one that's fitted with sliding doors and a chalkboard to scribble grocery lists on.





LEFT
The matrimonial bed's French-inspired frame was custom-made at a family-owned furniture factory in Indonesia.

BELOW, LEFT
A single branch (suspended from fish string hung from plastic wall hooks) hangs above Lena's vanity table, creating a picturesque scene with a minimalist sensibility.

BELOW, RIGHT
Quirky accessories such as animal doorknobs are a simple way to personalise a home. Bought in Milan by Lena from Zara Home, the moose head embellishes the door to the master bathroom.

OPPOSITE
Accessible only through the master bedroom's walk-in wardrobe, the master bathroom features a striking, vintage-inspired mirror from The Vintage Parlour that stands out against the white wall.

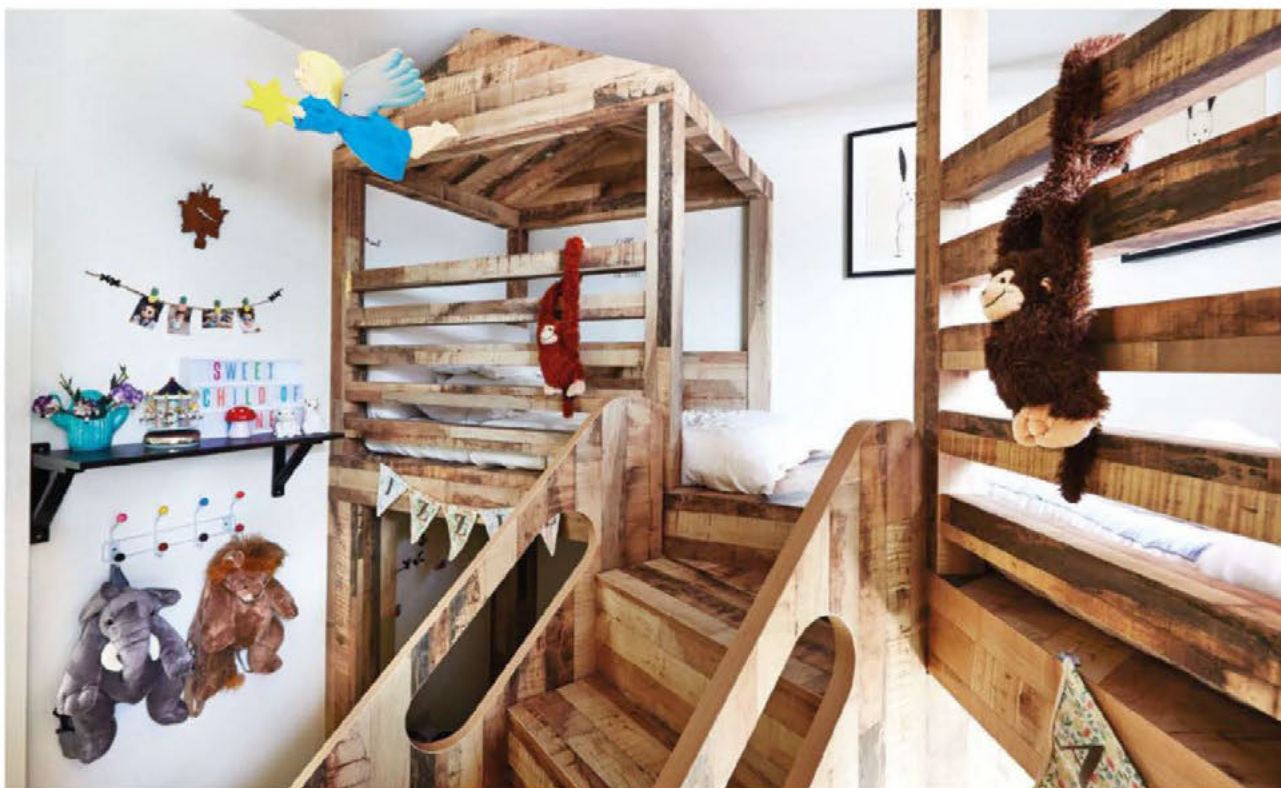


However, what's closest to her heart is her ornate eight-year-old matrimonial bed. "We've had it from the day we got married," Lena explains.

Besides structural changes, such as erecting false walls to seal off the kitchen and segregating the master bedroom to create a walk-in wardrobe, the renovation resulted in a more feminine feel for the home. While most men wouldn't go with this particular look, Lena's husband – being the romantic gentleman he is – simply "lets her do whatever she likes", she says, smiling. ➤

RIGHT
Cosy, charming
and coveted by all
kids (and some
adults), the loft bed
also doubles as
a playhouse.

BELOW
The homeowner's
contractor built
this massive teak
"tree house" loft
bed, complete
with stairs and
pitched roofs, from
scratch. Fitted with
hidden storage
compartments,
toys and other
knick-knacks
can be stored
in its steps. ●



MAKING A STATEMENT

These lamps from the Precious Kartell collection bring a whole new world of meaning to the word enlightenment. Bold and gold, they are elegance incarnate, unapologetic in their show-stopping, attention-seeking beauty. The perfect addition to any room, these lamps exude dramatic flair, making the ultimate statement of style.



BOURGIE TABLE LAMP



TAJ MINI LED TABLE LAMP



BLOOM LAMP

TAJ MINI LED TABLE LAMP

Available in metallic gold and copper, Ferruccio Laviani's Taj Mini LED table lamp is a breath of fresh air in design. An elegant curve depicts the graceful arch of a swan's neck, or the dramatic sway of a cobra's head. Of slim and minimalistic design, the lamp is the perfect piece to complete your desk. Fitted as an LED light, the Taj Mini provides first class lighting whilst simultaneously helping to safeguard the environment by promoting energy efficiency. LED lights are also known to have better light distribution, and can last up to 20 times longer than other sources of light.

BOURGIE TABLE LAMP

A Ferruccio Laviani design, the Bourgie lamp displays hints of classical design, artfully combining elegant Baroque styles with the futuristic lustre of modern-day materials, polycarbonate and metallic ABS steels. Complementing a decorative base, the lampshade is made with a pleated effect, showcasing a play of reflective light when the lamp is turned on. The lamp is available in a variety of colours, a perfect addition to the decor of any room whether it is used as ornamentation or as a reading light. A unique attachment system allows for the lamp to be adjusted to assume different heights: 68, 73 and 78 centimetres.

BLOOM LAMP

Available in three sizes and in different modes, Kartell's bloom lamp is a work of art. Much like a bouquet of individual flowers tightly packed to form an iconic starburst shape, the Ferruccio Laviani design combines modern-day design with the timeless allure of a well-placed flower arrangement. When turned on, little bulbs within the structure emit light that reflects off the multi-faceted petals. The bloom lamp comes in various colours to complement your decor: purity and simplicity in translucent crystal, matte white, or bold sophistication in glittering gold among others. Of mass-dyed or metallic technopolymer thermoplastic, the lamp is compatible with bulbs from all energy classes.

The Taj Mini, Bourgie and Bloom lamps are available from Lightcraft, located at 145 Jalan Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur.

BUILT ON TRUST

The difference is in the details. This rustic-industrial home stands out from the crowd thanks to its daring designer.

WHO

A young graphic-designer couple

HOME

Four-room flat

SIZE

990sqf

RIGHT
The couple, both graphic designers, have many quirky accessories in their home, including the penny-farthing in their study. ▶







A white brick feature wall, concrete screed flooring, industrial-style track lights, barn doors and a kitchen that looks almost classic in style. These elements from various decor styles were not what Jeri Tan and Bernard Wong initially envisioned their cosy four-room flat to be filled with.

But they are more than happy with the final result. The renovation started with a simple request for a white brick wall and an industrial look, but that vision was tweaked in the hands of Mei Teh from Story Of Us.

Mei wanted to do things differently, and deconstructed the brick wall to give it an uneven look. The “broken” wall appears more eye-

catching now. The industrial look they wanted was also further enhanced by customising the dining table with a laminate that sports a rough, unfinished look. The table surface was also raised so it looks more like a casual work table than a formal dining table.

But the biggest changes made by Mei can be seen in the kitchen. Jeri and Bernard wanted a simple white and wood look for the narrow space, but the designer encouraged them to think out of the box and turn the whole open-concept kitchen into a decorative feature.

“I was initially quite taken aback by her idea of a London theme for the kitchen,” laughs Jeri. “But my husband said that it was nice and bright, ▶



The colourful London-inspired kitchen was used to brighten the raw, industrial look of the home.

ABOVE, LEFT
The aviation phone might appear to be a decorative prop, but it's actually a functioning piece that goes perfectly with the decor of the home!

ABOVE
Inspired by the colours of the Union Jack, the kitchen cabinets were painted red, white and blue, and the display cabinets were made to look like the doors of London's telephone booths.

OPPOSITE
Jeri and Bernard enjoy cycling around Punggol and exploring the estate. So, their bicycles take centre stage on the feature wall. They are hung on DIY bicycle racks that Bernard created after spotting something similar online.



LEFT
To complement the industrial look of the home, the dining table was built to look like a workshop table, and is paired with bar stools instead of dining chairs.

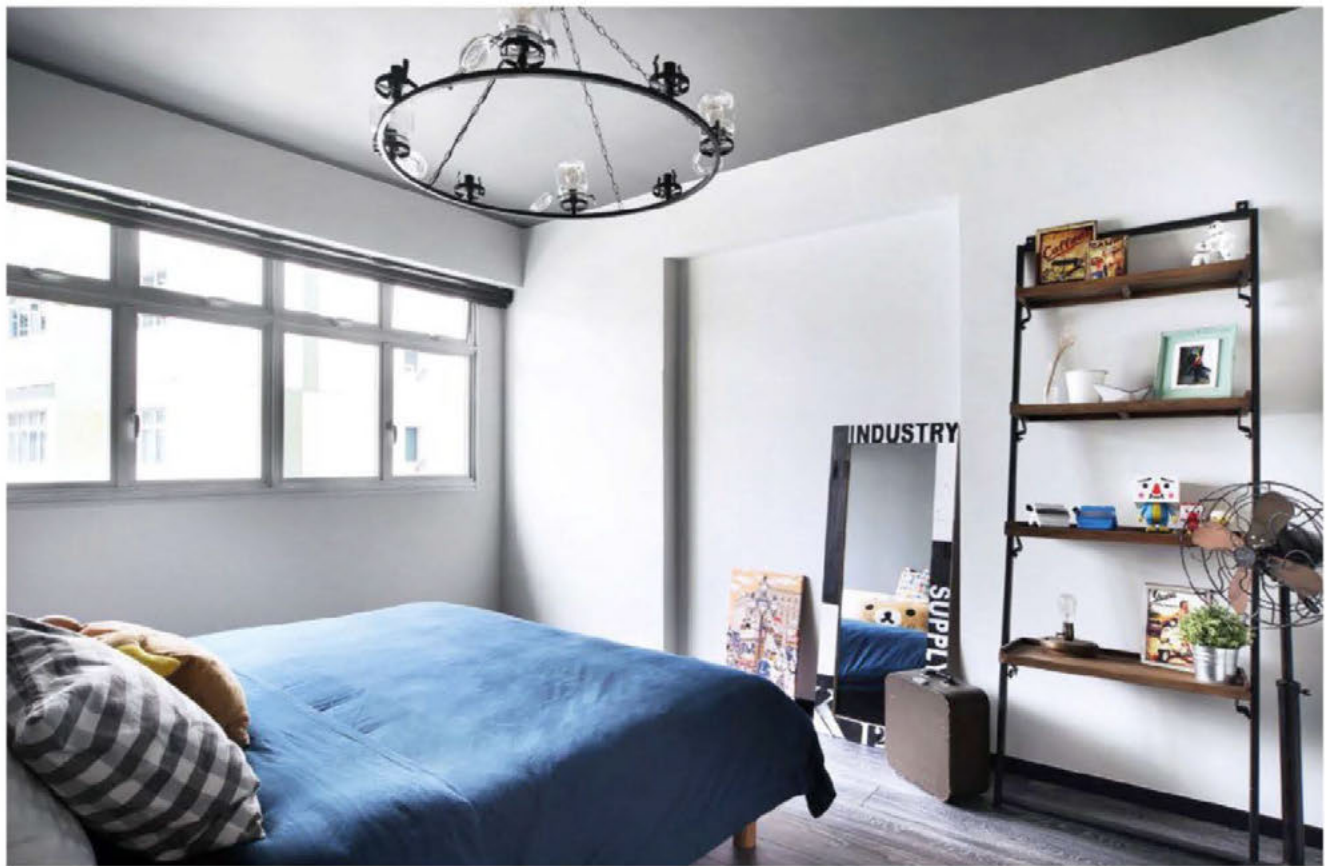


photo STORY OF US



flowers SHOP WONDERLAND

LEFT

The other bedroom was turned into a walk-in wardrobe that has doors in a wood plank-lookalike design created with laminates.

TOP

The bedroom features a leaning shelf from Journey East, and a chandelier made out of mason jars by an artist from Thailand.

and that playing it safe would be very boring, so we went ahead with it!" To add a personal touch, Bernard designed and printed his own signage, similar to those seen in London Underground stations.

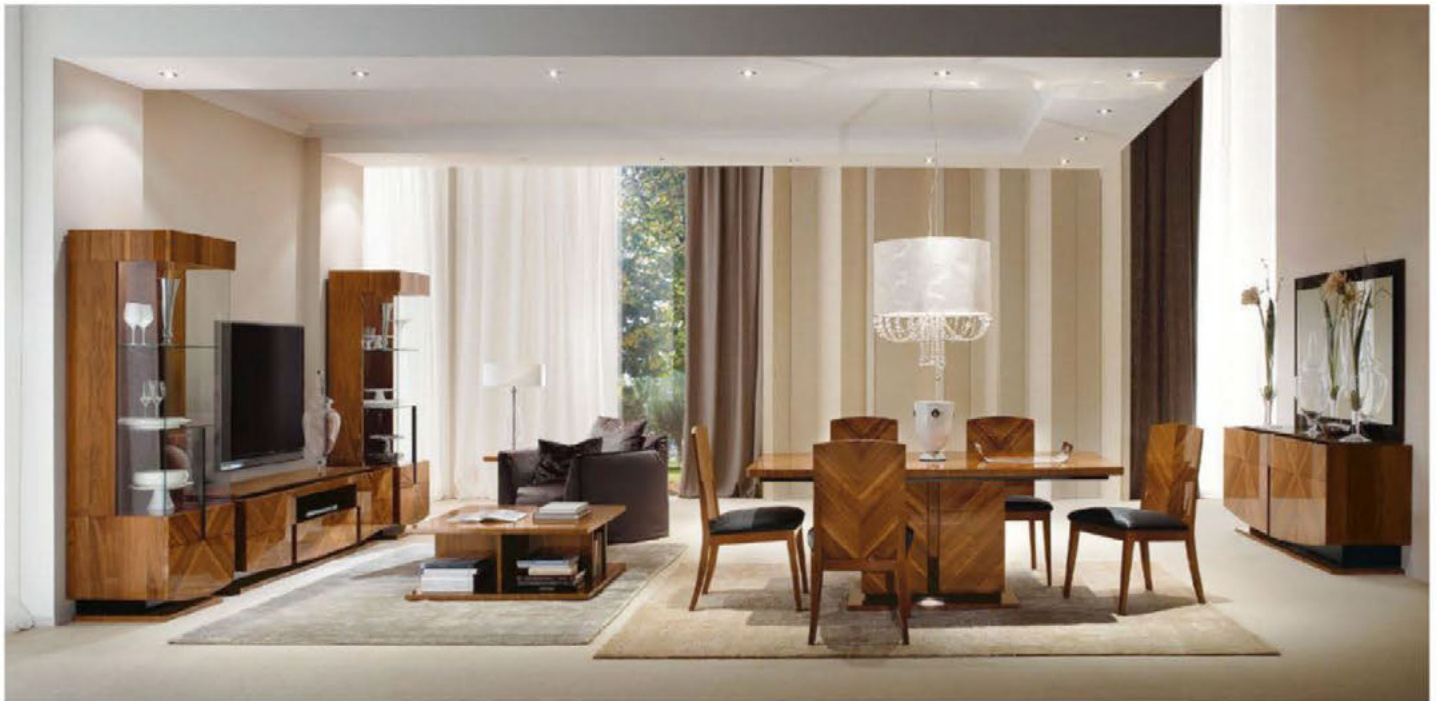
The couple also decided to expand their living room by taking down the walls of their spare bedroom, and creating a large open-concept work area with space for a built-in storage cabinet.

Mei designed cabinetry inspired by barn doors, to match the raw industrial look of the abode.

Pointing out that renovation was completed without a hitch in under two months and Jeri credits the smooth process to Mei, who was a former classmate of hers: "She's a very good friend, so we trusted her plans for the home!". ●

CIAO, ITALIA

Harvey Norman offers the trendiest, most fashionable designer furniture from all over Italy. Of high quality, the four exclusive brands carried by Harvey Norman include Oliver B, Saporini, Stellani and Alf, emphasise authenticity and craftsmanship.



Alf OPERA High Glass Canaletto Extendable Dining Table Normal Price: RM12, 999, Special Price: RM9, 099; Side Board Normal Price: RM13, 599, Special Price: RM9,519, TV Unit Normal Price: RM10, 999, Special Price: RM7, 699; Square Coffee table Normal Price: RM3,999, Special Price: RM2,799.

Why choose Italian furniture?

- Italian furniture can be incorporated into a home of both modern and classic design.
- It lasts a lifetime. It is worth investing in furniture made from fine natural and high quality materials such as genuine leather, marble, steel and solid wood as they last longer. Genuine leather, for example, has the flexibility to offer you a cool seat during hot weather and warmth throughout colder days.
- Italian heritage goes into the making of these pieces as they are produced by artisans with years of experience. Attention to detail is paramount in these beautiful, unique pieces.
- Italian furniture brings a prestigious, classy and glamorous ambience to any room.
- Innovative configurations such as adjustable head and foot rests, extendable panels, pull-outs and clever built-in mechanisms are available for added comfort and additional space when you need it.

Above: Alf OPERA High Gloss Canaletto

The sophisticated and modern design of the OPERA Canaletto boasts inlaid grains in different shades of brown one after the other in a geometrical, arrow sequence. This creates a unique, warm and enveloping effect. It also has a high gloss finishing.

See in store for more Italian furniture selection.



Oliver B MONTANA Dining Table

Normal Price: RM31,999

Special Offer: RM22,399

Modern and contemporary, this dining table made from solid wild oak ages beautifully. It is paired with a criss-crossed metal base and legs to exude a timeless elegance.



Saporini VERONICA Full Leather Chaise Lounge

Normal Price: RM49,999

Special Offer: RM34,999

VERONICA is stylish. She has a solid timber frame, sleek legs and chrome plated trimmings, along its base. You may sit back, relax and adjust the headrest according to your needs.



Stellani CROSS Square Marble Table

Normal Price: RM19,999

Special Offer: RM13,999

The black and white CROSS Square Marble Table is low-maintenance, produced from aged marble.



Oliver B FLORA TV Unit

Normal Price: 11, 999 Special Offer: RM8, 399

Embrace the bold and bright! This decorative, floral-printed TV unit has a sleek silhouette, with a solid wooden frame paired with metal legs.

Oliver B ONDA Natural Leather Armchair

Normal Price: RM14, 999

Special Offer: RM10, 499

Sink into the arms of this classy and luxurious leather armchair; its plush surface will provide all the comfort you'll need.



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OPEN BUT COSY

The unfussy design of this apartment, enhanced with natural materials, allows the sophisticated taste of its homeowners to speak for itself.

WHO

A mother-daughter duo, and the latter's partner

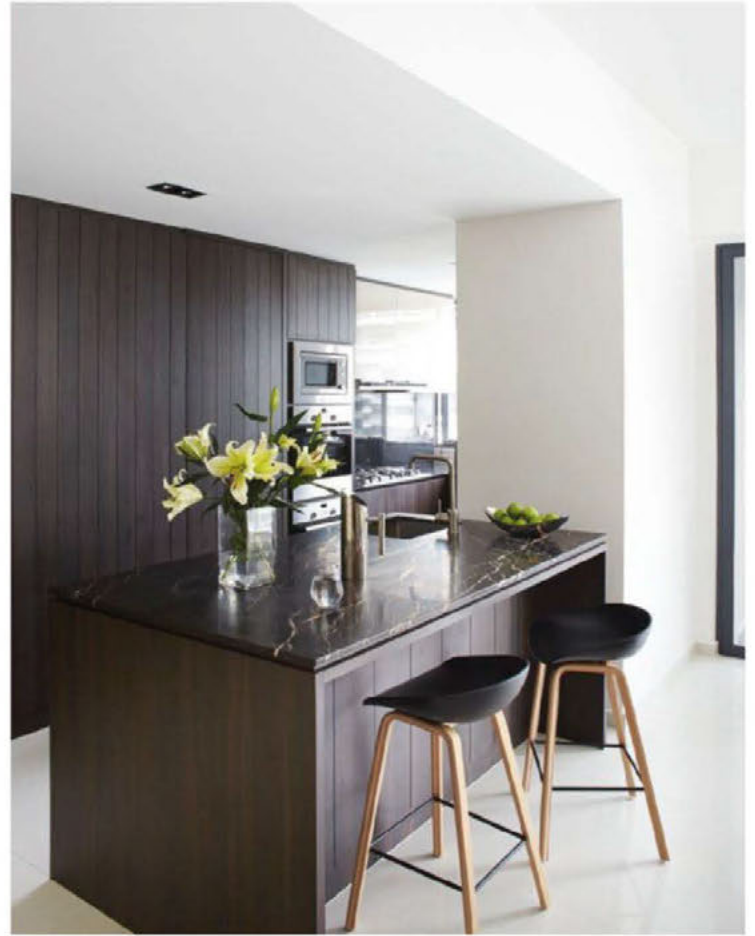
HOME

A four-bedroom apartment

SIZE

2,400sqf

LEFT
With storage space concealed, the common area remains streamlined. The family then styled it with sculptural accessories, and flowers by Christopher Teo of Floral Obsession at Scotts Square. ➤



This dwelling at The Interlace is an elegant home with a sweeping view of its lush surroundings and the sea beyond.

While it has an ideal design – every room has a rectilinear layout and is accompanied by a full-length balcony – Cherie Tan and her mother, Patsy, were worried about not having enough storage space as they were downsizing from a landed property.

So while storage space and a good use of space were imperative to the three-month renovation, the family also paid close attention to making the space truly theirs by dressing it up with their collection of accessories.

Here's how Cherie reworked the space with the help of an interior-designer friend.

How did you conceptualise this home?

I must give full credit to my close friend, Vin Leong, who spent a great deal of time and was patient in helping me define and realise the final design concept of our home – chic, clean and intimate.

I wanted it that way because our unit has a generous view of the sea, so it's important for the design to showcase that with clean lines and open spaces.

How was the layout restructured?

We found the original hemmed-in kitchen space too restrictive.



LEFT
Cherie, her mother Patsy, and Roy in front of a photograph of the Great Ocean Road shot by Roy, who's a photographer.

(OPPOSITE) LEFT
A section of the wall dividing the living room and TV room (a former bedroom) was replaced with a sliding door to allow Patsy easy access to the TV room and her bedroom.

RIGHT
The originally enclosed kitchen was opened up, and can now fit an elegant island with a Browntini marble counter. This grand island is also where the family often gathers to have breakfast or entertain guests.

Nature is a recurring theme in this home, and natural materials such as the living room's travertine wall take centre stage.

So we designed an open-concept kitchen, and that opened up an expansive perspective, which is evident when you walk through the front door. We also merged two rooms to form a bigger space, so my partner, Roy, and I could have a study desk and full-height wardrobe space in our bedroom.

With an open kitchen, how do you ensure that cooking fumes don't linger in the living area?

We have a stove in the outdoor yard for heavy cooking. When we cook indoors, we keep the balcony's windows open, and the smell clears quite quickly.

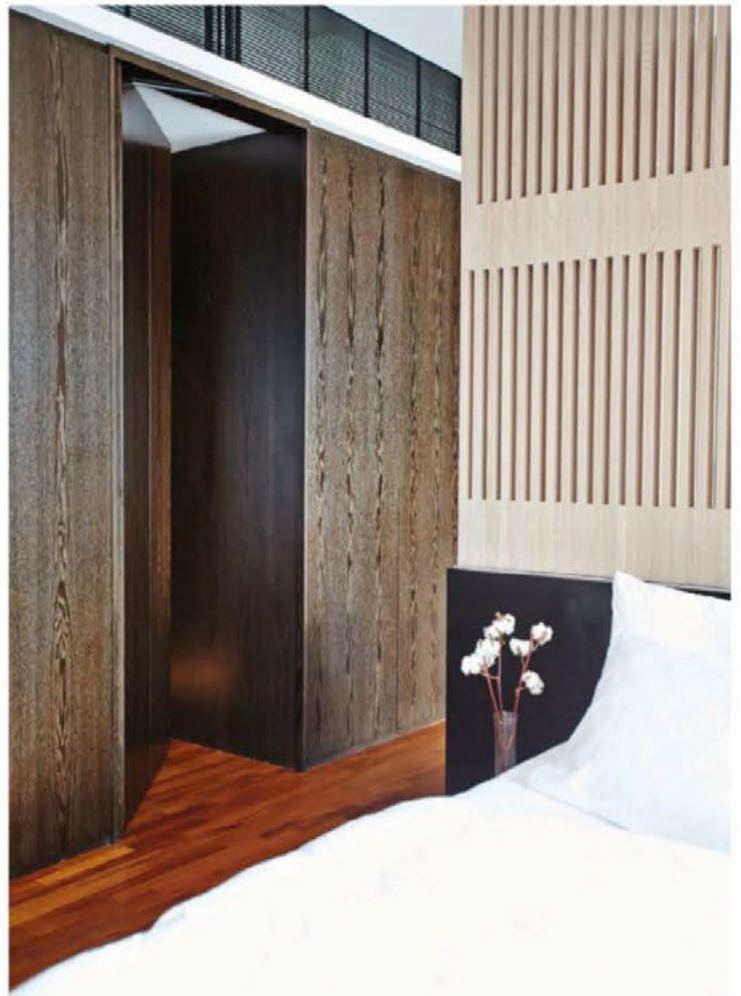
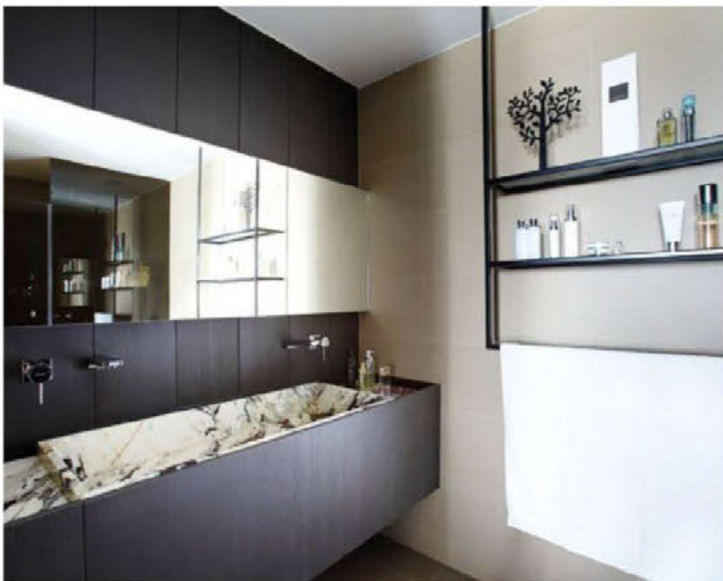
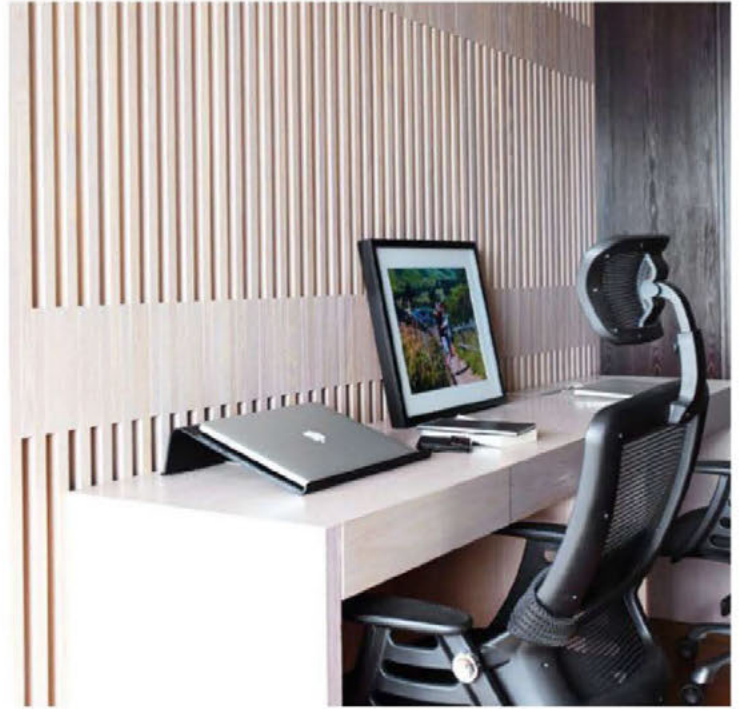
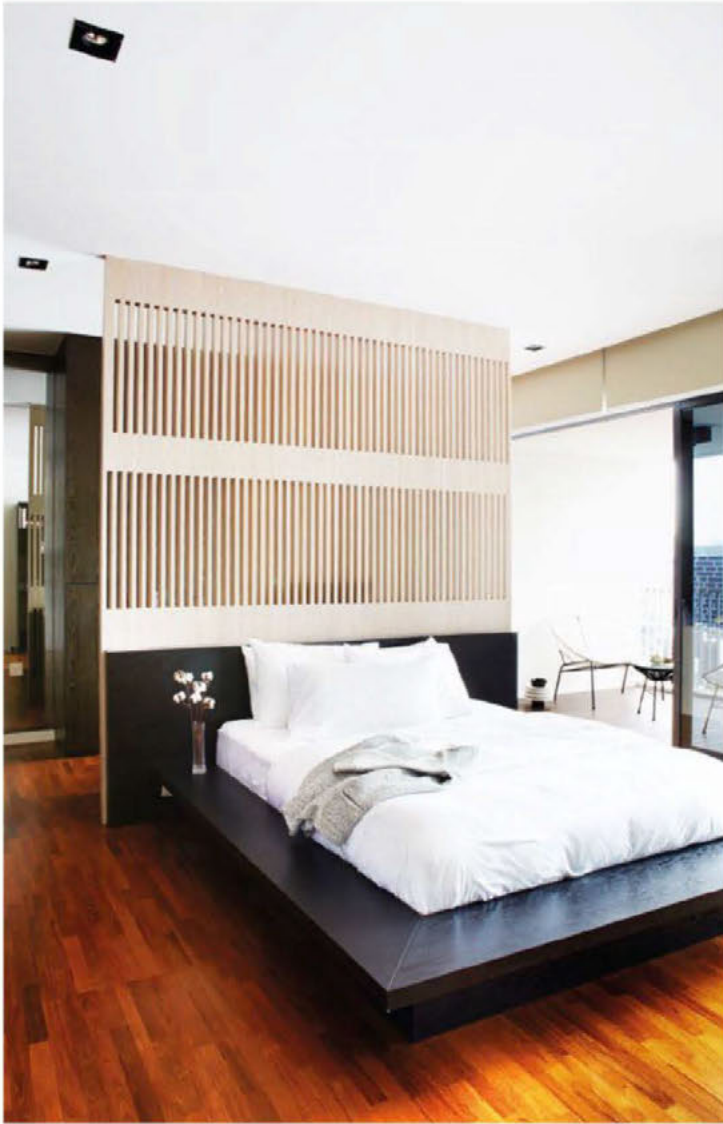
Tell us about the other rooms.

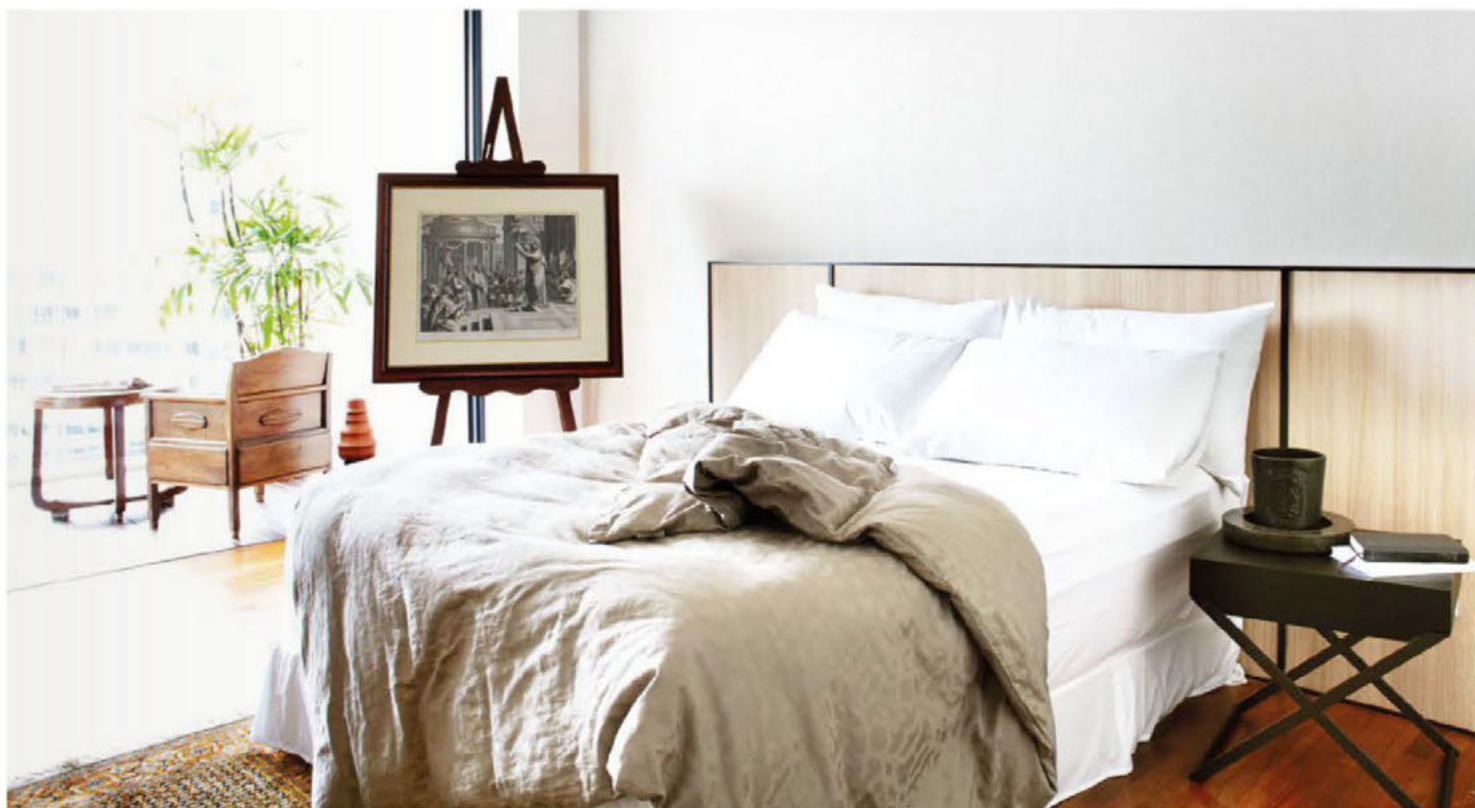
My mum's room was mostly left ▶



LEFT
Much of the family's refined taste is reflected in their choice of furniture pieces, which include designs from Space, Dream Interiors and Boconcept. ▶







ABOVE
Patsy's room
houses her dearest
collection of
items, including
vintage chairs in
the balcony and an
artwork by Nicolas
Dorigny, a famous
French painter
and engraver.

{OPPOSITE}
TOP LEFT
& RIGHT
Cherie and Roy's
room features
a customised
bed frame with
extended sides
that serve as side
tables. Concealed
behind the semi-
private divider are
a utilitarian study
desk and a full-
height wardrobe.

BOTTOM LEFT
& RIGHT
The bathroom,
which is hidden
behind a seamless
push-open panel,
is designed to allow
both of them to
get ready at the
same time in the
morning.

untouched. As she prefers not to have a TV set in her bedroom, we converted the adjacent bedroom into a TV room. Both rooms are her personal spaces, so we kept the colour palette to her favourite neutral tones.

What did you appreciate the most from Vin's input as a designer?

He helped us hide as much as possible with built-in storage and seamless doors. He also lowered the ceiling above the dining area to conceal the air-conditioning. With the clever use of wall cladding and panelling, he was able to preserve the home's clean, straight lines.

How did you go about decorating the space?

I love incorporating the beauty of natural materials to help bring warmth, texture and

comfort to the home. So we chose materials like wood, travertine and marble, for the home, and styled it with accessories including textured fabric, ceramics, leather, wood, corals and stone.

I also love scented candles for ambience, so the apartment has an assortment of candles scattered around. My favourites are from Cire Trudon and Dyptique.

Which is your favourite part of the home?

Definitely the kitchen island, as it's where we often start the day, having breakfast. This is also where Mum, Roy, and I often cook and host our guests. That's why even though the footprint of the kitchen is small, it had to be fully functional. ●

Q&A

YOUR RENO & DECOR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

We answer your renovation and decorating questions with help from industry experts. E-mail questions to maghomedecor@sph.com.sg.

I love the look of marble bathrooms in hotels, but how can I maintain a marble bathroom if the material is porous?

We love the luxury of marble bathrooms, too, but marble is a porous stone and absorbs stains easily. If used in the wet area of a bathroom, soap, shampoo and other impurities can accumulate on the surface and make it even more slippery.

"Most marble used in hotel bathrooms are treated with impregnators, but they will still have a certain lifespan. Impregnation only delays the effect of staining, but not make the marble stain-proof," says Terry Tan of tile company Rice.

This means that any liquid left on the marble surface for more than an hour would still stain it. Bacteria might also start to build

up beneath the stone surface.

Maintain marble surfaces by cleaning off any soap residue and wiping wet spots after a shower. A well-ventilated area will ensure that the marble surfaces dry quickly as well. If there is no window in your bathroom, you can install a mechanical ventilator.

To enjoy a marble look without the required maintenance, Terry suggests using quality porcelain stoneware tiles that use digital inkjet technology to make it resemble the natural material.

He adds: "Some leading Italian tile manufacturers even offer antibacterial tiles by partnering with Microban." Microban is a global firm specialising in antibacterial technology. Such tiles might even be cheaper than using marble, too, says Terry.

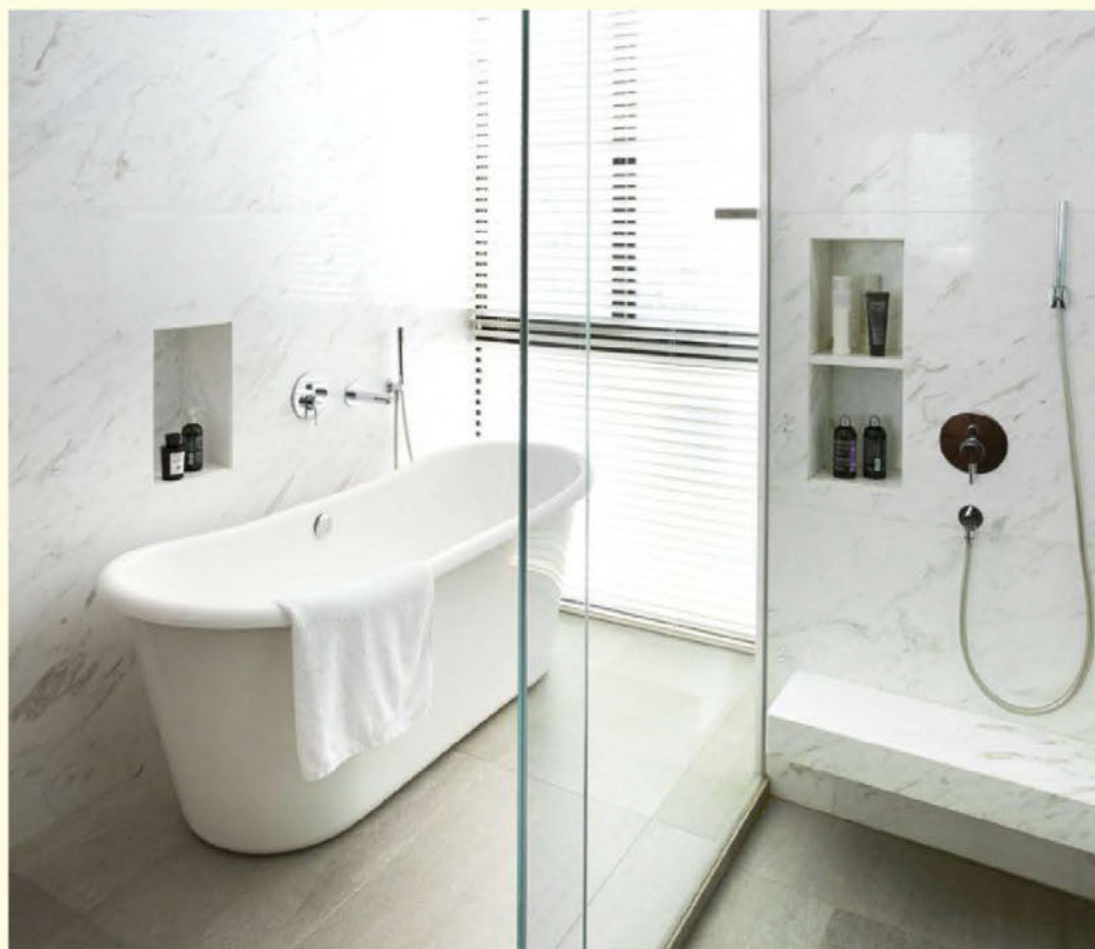
I can't decide between an electric and gas water heater. With a small household of two adults and two kids, which should I choose?

There are many other factors to consider. One of them is whether your home already has a provision for access to gas and, if not, how much the installation would cost. Public housing, for example, is more likely to have this provision, as compared to older private condos or landed property.

According to a study cited on the Energy Efficient Singapore website (www.tinyurl.com/heaterstudy), gas water heaters consume less energy than electric water heaters. Weigh that against the cost of installation, and the cost of the heater itself. Gas water heaters are also said to be more expensive than electric ones.

For electric water heaters, instantaneous versions use less energy than storage water heaters and work faster; but storage water heaters might be a better solution if you need hot water supplied to a few bathrooms. "For a family of four, try an electric storage heater with a minimum of 30 litres. It can supply multiple outlets with hot water simultaneously, and is automatic with a thermostat that heats and stores water at a set temperature for use. Storage heaters require only one electrical point, but having several instant heaters in one home would require as many outlets as there are heaters," says Eddie Lee, senior sales manager at Ariston Thermo, Singapore.

Gas water heaters also need sufficient water pressure to work well, so check with Citygas. Visit its showroom at Cross Street, Singapore for more details. ▶



photography JASPER YU design PIU DESIGN



**Is it suitable to use solid surfacing for bay windows?
Is this material resistant to heat and sunlight?**

There is a range of materials you can use to surface your bay window seat, but solid surfacing is not recommended. As that area is right by the window, and gets lots of sunlight and heat, wood or stone are better choices.

"As solid surfacing is made of polyester (or even acrylic), it is prone to discolouration over time when under direct sunlight, especially if the top is white. We would advise clients to use stones such as quartz or granite. If there is a budget constraint, try a laminated plank instead. In terms of pricing, laminates are the least expensive, followed by solid surfacing, quartz, and then granite," says Space Factor's creative director, Dolly Teo. ▶

I know mirrors make a space look larger, but having too many of them can look tacky. How do I incorporate them into my home?

A strategically placed mirror can do wonders to enhance a space, but a mirror in the wrong place can kill the look of your decor.

For dark and narrow hallways or corridors, a large mirror along one wall, or a tall mirror at the end of a long space, opens up the confined area considerably. They can also be used to reflect light into a darker space.

You can create a focal point at the corner of two walls, such as in your wardrobe area, with a tall mirror. A more casual and modern way to display a tall mirror is to

simply lean it against the wall.

In the living area, use mirrors on one wall to reflect decor items such as your dining room's pendant lights, a piece of art, or even a nice view. Don't use them to reflect unflattering images such as messy or awkward spaces. Framing a mirror in the same way you'd frame an artwork gives it more presence.

Now for the don'ts. Don't place two mirrors opposite each other; this will only create a confusing space. You can also follow the fengshui rule of not placing a mirror where you will catch your reflection when you wake up. Lastly, avoid placing a mirror on the ceiling.

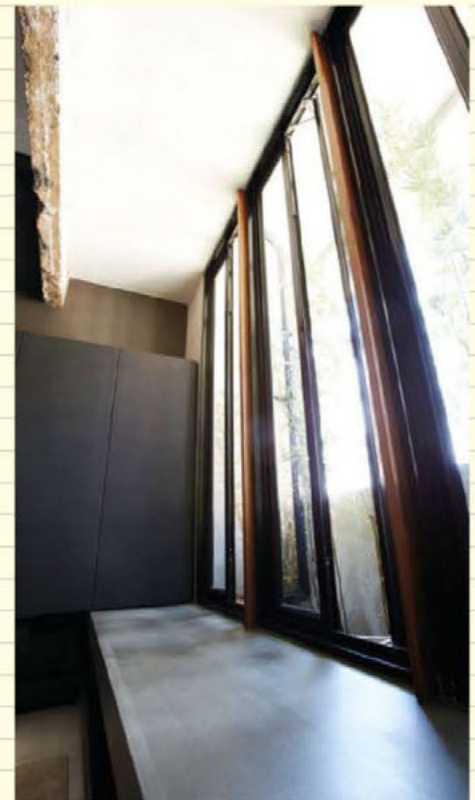


photo IKEA

photography WONG WEI LIANG design W2DA

I won't be using my kitchen much, and don't see the point in building cabinets, which will cost a lot. What other options do I have?

We're so used to seeing the typical two rows of cabinets (overhead and under-counter) in kitchens that we don't usually ask ourselves if they're even necessary.

Carpentry usually makes up the bulk of the cost of a kitchen renovation, and if you don't plan to cook that much, save on costs by building only what you need.

You'll still need a countertop to work on, and you can build storage spaces underneath that, but doors are optional! For example, homeowner Christine Choo designed a basic concrete-and-tile frame for her kitchen countertop and left it with open shelving.

Without overhead cabinets, your kitchen will look brighter and "lighter". Use that vertical space to mount rails for hanging pots and pans, and cooking implements. They'll be easier to access, too!



photography DARREN CHANG
design DWELL INTERIOR DESIGN

How can I remove stains from a painted wall, such as marks made by crayons, markers, and Blu-Tack?

In a home with young children, it's inevitable that your walls will become convenient canvases for these budding artists.

"Common marks can be easily cleaned by wiping with a soft sponge and a little soap solution, says Sary Cheong of Dulux. You can also try removing crayon and marker stains with baking soda. Sprinkle the powder on a damp cloth, and scrub hard at the stain. Some also swear by toothpaste, which, like baking powder, acts as an abrasive to scrub out the stain. If the marks are on a coloured wall, carry out a patch test on an inconspicuous corner to make sure your chosen method doesn't remove paint colour as well.

Blu-Tack that has been left on a wall for a long time might stain the surface when oil from the pliable putty seeps into the surface, especially if the wall was painted a long time ago and has become porous.

To remove these stains, Blu-Tack's website suggests a citrus-based stain remover. This might remove the paint as well, and your wall will need to be repainted.

Why not kid-proof your walls with washable paints instead, and avoid the hassle of cleaning? Both Dulux and Nippon Paints have paints that protect wall surfaces and make stains and marks easy to clean. ●



photography VERNON WONG

LINEN LOVE

High-quality bed sheets are an investment. Learn how to properly care for them to ensure that they last a long time.



WASH REGULARLY

Dirt, dust, oil and sweat build up quickly on bedding. The longer they accumulate on the sheets, the more stress is put on the sheet fibres. Grubby sheets are also more appealing to microscopic mites.

It's a good idea to change your bed sheets and pillowcases once a week, or every two weeks. Pillow protectors and mattress covers also require washing at least once a month.

SPECIAL FABRICS

- Silk is strong, but needs special laundering to keep its fibres intact. Wash silk items by hand the first few times. Afterwards, you can switch to machine washing, but choose the gentle or hand-wash cycle and resist the urge to use the extra spin cycle option.

- Linen is a soft yet durable natural fibre. The more frequently linen sheets are washed, the softer they become. The material dries quickly, so the sheets don't need a long or hot drying setting. Better yet, air-dry them.
- Bamboo fibre sheets are best laundered with cold water and soap made for natural fibres, or with neutral pH levels. Colours may run during the first few washings, so make sure to wash this material separately.

ROTATE YOUR BEDDING

Keep at least three sets of sheets per bed. This way, you can have one set on your bed, one in the laundry, and one tucked away in the closet. By rotating the sheet sets, they will last longer and won't wear out as quickly.

WHEN TO REPLACE

Bedding can last for many years, but too frequent and improper washing will break down even high-quality bed linen. Replace them when the fabric gets thin, shows fading, or develops pills (small balls of fluff on the surface). If the edges of the sheets look shabby and frayed, it's time to retire them.



While it's tempting to crank up the heat on your washer thinking it will make your sheets cleaner, hot water is actually harsh on fibres, and hard on colours. Always use cool or lukewarm water and a gentle wash cycle to extend the lifespan of your bedding. ●

Electrolux Built-in Microwave Oven with Grill EMS 2085X

Do you have a busy, hectic schedule, but enjoy food that is fresh and wholesome? Never fear! This built-in microwave oven is all you need. It is able to grill your food, so you'll be able to have healthy meals all the time. With its sleek, steel finish, you can rest assured it'll fit right into your decor.



Try out this recipe:

GRILLED FISH FINGERS

- 400g fish fillets from any firm white fish
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 4 tbsp plain flour
- 1 egg, beaten with a dash of milk
- 20g regular breadcrumbs
- 20g panko (Japanese-style breadcrumbs)
- 20g parmesan cheese, freshly grated
- 1/4 tsp paprika powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp grapeseed oil

1. Cut fish fillets into strips. If you're using frozen fillets, thaw them before cutting. Preheat your microwave oven at 200°C.
2. Combine dried breadcrumbs, cheese, paprika and garlic powder with flour. Beat egg in a separate bowl, and pour panko out into a third.
3. Coat each strip of fish with flour, egg mixture and panko evenly. Leave to stand for 5 – 10 minutes.
4. Brush a generous amount of grapeseed oil on a sheet of baking paper and arrange the fish strips on it in a single layer. Grill the fish for 10 minutes or until golden brown, turning them halfway to ensure they brown evenly.
5. Allow to cool for five minutes before serving.

Recipe provided by Panasonic Cooking. For more information, visit bit.ly/1Rj1kHZ.

Breville Indoor Barbeque and Grill 800GRXL

Rainy weather will never again deter your barbeque parties. This beauty sports 368 square inches of grilling surface powered at 1500 watts, and has both ribbed and flat plates for grilling all kinds of food. Forget the charcoal and unruly weather – you can cook steaks, pancakes and even lightly toast sandwiches at all times with this in your home.

For more information, visit www.breville.com



TIP

Cleaning this indoor grill is easy. Just heat it up until the oils on the surface of the plates start to sizzle, then wipe clean with tissue paper.

Breville Soft Top Kettle BKE700

When hot water is a constant necessity, you want your kettles to be both durable and safe to use. This stainless steel kettle is made to outlast others, whilst all non-steel parts are BPA free. The soft opening of the kettle also prevents hot water from splashing back, making it safe for child use.



For more information visit www.breville.com

Cuisinart 2-litre Ice Cream, Frozen Yogurt & Sorbet Maker

Making dessert for a family with varied preferences has never been easier. Make ice cream, frozen yogurts and sorbets with this ingenious device. With its large 2-litre capacity, you'll certainly be able to make enough for the whole family. The heavy duty motor makes any dessert in 25 minutes or less, so you won't have to wait too long.



Try out these recipes

LEMON SORBET

- 3 cups granulated sugar
- 3 cups water
- 2¼ lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 1½ tbsp lemon zest, finely chopped

1. Dissolve sugar in water and bring to boil over medium-high heat.
2. Add lemon zest and juice, then pour mixture into freezing bowl. Turn machine on and allow to mix and thicken for 25 minutes.

CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM

- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1½ cups whole milk
- 3¼ cups heavy cream
- 1 tbsp pure vanilla extract

1. Combine cocoa powder and sugars, then add whole milk and whisk until everything has dissolved.
2. Stir in heavy cream and vanilla, then pour mixture into freezing bowl.
3. Turn machine on and allow to mix and thicken for 25 minutes.

FROZEN YOGURT

- 1 2/3 cups whole milk
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 4 cups fat-free vanilla yogurt
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- 1 tbsp pure vanilla extract

1. Using a hand mixer, combine milk and granulated sugar, then, stir in heavy cream, yogurt and vanilla.
2. Pour mixture into freezing bowl.
3. Turn machine on and allow to mix and thicken for 25 minutes.

Recipe provided by Panasonic Cooking.
For more information, visit bit.ly/1cfAalt

Pensonic Chef's Like Halogen Convection Oven

Don't let this oven's strange appearance scare you. The Pensonic Chef's Like Halogen Convection Oven with its halogen lamp cooks food 20 percent faster than conventional ovens. This is because the halogen lamp instantly heats food up whilst an internal fan distributes heat equally and uniformly in the oven. As a result, you'll need less oil when you cook with this oven.



For more information visit www.pensonic.com

Morphy Richards Accents Traditional 4-slice Toaster

While it may look like an old timer, this toaster is actually a modern, efficient machine. Its Hi-Lift facility allows you to remove your toast with ease, while the reheat setting allows you to warm up any excess toast without burning it. It also comes with a removable crumb tray for easy cleaning. ●



For more information visit www.brabantia.com/int_en/

GOOD WORK

More people are now working from home and spending most of their day in front of a computer. If you are part of this growing group, your home office will greatly affect how you feel, and the quality of your work. Here are five tips to create a space that inspires you.

1. Know your “why”

To find fulfilment and success in anything you do, the first step is to be clear about why you do it. Make a statement of what you are working towards, and make this goal clear in your space. Is it travel that inspires you, or your family? Decorate your space with the reason for your work and you will feel more motivated. Think wall art, decoration or colours.

2. Set boundaries

It's hard to create a balance when work spills over into personal life. Create a visual separation with design elements so that when you are in work mode, you can be fully present in your zone, and then disconnect when in home mode.

3. Stay organised

Office clutter has a way of building up! The only way to control it is to stay on top of it. It's easier when you have a dedicated place for everything, so plan out smart office solutions. Keeping your space organised will also ensure that you don't end up buying doubles of things, creating more waste. Know exactly what you have and what you need.



4. Make your office green

Many offices are going green – printing less, using less paper and recycling. Set up a recycling bin under your desk so that you can dispose of your waste responsibly.

5. Bring in nature

Nature has a calming effect – a simple plant or bouquet of flowers makes a big difference. Not only does it give a sense of peace, but it can be great for your health, too. Natural air purifiers such as areca palm, mother-in-law's tongue and money trees remove harmful toxins from the air. You can find these plants at your local nursery, and at Ikea. If you don't have a green thumb, essential oils such as peppermint, rosemary and lemon help to stimulate focus, memory and clarity. In an essential oil burner, add three to four drops of essential oil to ¼ cup of water.

Doctors now say that sitting is the new smoking. With many people working long hours, resulting in a sedentary lifestyle, experts fear that they are a ticking time bomb of ill health and run the risk of obesity, high blood pressure, depression and more.

Make sure that you are getting up and moving for at least five minutes every hour, or invest in a standing desk (from www.ergotron.com, www.amazon.com or www.idealworkspace.com). They can cost upwards of RM2700, but can add years to your life! Otherwise, get inspiration from the hundreds of DIY ideas for propping up your computer on crates, books or shelves. Your health is worth it! ●

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There are times we yearn for the past. The past is comfortable, warm and safe because it is familiar. Luckily, we can remind ourselves of the past with decor that evokes memories from years before.

The first thing that comes to mind with 50s aesthetics would be that iconic pastel blue often favoured at the time. Here, it is showcased in the form of a storage and counter unit, made to look like a fridge of the same era. Don't be fooled, however; it

may look old, but it isn't. The surface of the counter is fitted with an induction cooker for ease, bypassing natural gas in a bid to be more environmentally friendly.

This dining table and chair set is also reminiscent of the 50s, deliberately incorporating different pairs of chairs for the whole set-up. William Pahlmann is accredited for starting this mix-and-match approach. If you want to replicate his style, make sure to have some common ground

between the items you're mixing and matching. Here, the dining chairs share splotches of red, though two are wood while the others sport metal backs.

Echo the colourful bathrooms of the 50s by using a variety of tiles of differing hues and patterns. Don't forget the requisite 50s-style bathroom fixtures. You can find those online or from vintage stores. For that old glamorous Hollywood feel, install florescent light bulbs around your mirror. ●





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